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# AGRI-NEWS

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# McClellan announces appointments to Irrigation Council

Two new members have been appointed to the Alberta Irrigation Council by Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan.

Simon Jensen, of Standard, and Richard Williams, of Cessford, were appointed to the nine member council.

Jensen farms in partnership with his sons in the Western Irrigation District. He recently served on the Farming for the Future on-farm demonstration regional review committee and is actively involved in community affairs.

Williams is an irrigation farmer in the Cessford area and uses water from the Sheerness-Deadfish irrigation project. Among other community projects, he is involved with the Prairie Water Management Association that promotes new water management projects in the province's Special Areas.

"Richard Williams and Simon Jensen are both progressive and highly-respected farmers. Each is a strong supporter of irrigated agricultural production in the province and each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Irrigation Council. I am confident that these gentlemen will make a valuable contribution to the Council," says McClellan.

The Alberta Irrigation Council operates under the legislative authority of the Alberta Irrigation Act. It acts as an advisory body to the agriculture ministers and to the province's 13 Irrigation Districts on matters relating to irrigation. The Council also administers agreements for irrigation works rehabilitation through the Alberta government's Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion program.

The nine-member council has seven farmer and two government representatives. The Council secretary is G.P. Hartman, manager of the Alberta Agriculture Irrigation Secretariat. Leighton Buckwell is the acting Council chairman.

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Contact: Doris Armitage
422-9156

G.P. Hartman
381-5176

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

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# Erosion control blocks receive international exposure

An innovative erosion control block, designed by an Alberta company, got international exposure during an on-farm water management tour by Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) annual meeting delegates.

Tour participants from across Canada and the United States saw the blocks used in a backflood irrigation demonstration project. The Mini-Slab II blocks, from Lafarge Construction Materials in Calgary, are a key component in the Golden Glow Farms spring backflood demonstration project near Millet, Alberta.

"The 90 plus international participants in the SWCS tour showed great interest in the Mini-Slabs and how they were used in the project," says Neil MacAlpine, Alberta Agriculture farm water management engineer. The tour was one of several offered to delegates on August 1 during the 44th annual SWCS meeting in Edmonton.

The project's aim is conserving and managing soil moisture through snowmelt capture in spring flood irrigation of 45 acres on two quarter sections. It includes about 650 yards of field ditch to improve removal of excess flood irrigation water, about 550 yards of improvement to the outlet watercourse and installation of a berm and stop log control culvert at the outlet end of the irrigation area.

The blocks are a unique part of the project that make the structure erosion resistant says Shaukat Ali, a farm water management project engineer with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

"The project is designed to hold back an average snowmelt for seven to 10 days while the snowmelt soaks into the frozen soil and recharges soil moisture. Above normal snowmelts have to be released in a controlled way, or the extra runoff could washout the structure. The Mini-Slab blocks are an economical method of protecting the control structure," he says.

(Cont'd)

The last set of blocks at the culvert outlet were in place four hours after work started.

After the control culvert was placed in the ditch, it was covered with clay. A plastic filter cloth was laid over the clay and the blocks were put in place by hand. Each 15 by 15 by three and a half inch block weighs 50 lbs. They link together to form a secure protective surface capable of withstanding high velocity water flows.

"Alberta Agriculture staff who placed the blocks were surprised at how easy they were to install," says MacAlpine who led the Alberta Agriculture project work team.

"Placing the Mini-Slabs by hand was much more efficient than the traditional method of placing large rocks by backhoe and gravel truck. We had the blocks in place and the site cleaned up in less than six hours," he says. The blocks covered a 1200 sq.ft. area.

(Cont'd)

Erosion control blocks receive international exposure (cont'd)

"The blocks are being used for low-level crossings on streams, landscaping steep slopes and protecting entrances into farm dugouts," says Tom Prior, of Lafarge. MacAlpine agrees that the Mini-Slabs are multipurpose. "I see them as useful for erosion protection and farm crossings. I also think they would provide clean safe footing for cows on access lanes into pasture dugouts," he says.

Steve Moen, Gerald Pohl and Marvin Pohl are the farmers co-operating in the backflood demonstration project. Moen says not only did he gain a 15-foot wide farm crossing over a large ditch, but the Mini-Slabs are attractive and require limited maintenance. The project was partially funded through the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

For more information on the project contact MacAlpine at the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385. Information about the Mini-Slab II is available from Jack Ainsworth, Lafarge Construction Materials Ltd. in Calgary at 271-6661.

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Contact: Neil MacAlpine
422-4385

Jack Ainsworth
271-6661

September 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Harvesting your garden vegetables

Knowing when your vegetables are ready to harvest or how to ripen vegetables picked before a frost are two common questions gardeners ask experts at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

"Most of the common questions are about corn, tomatoes, onions, squash and pumpkins," says Pam North, information officer at the centre.

Dry or brown corn silk is one indication that corn is ready to eat. Cobs should be checked to see if there are kernels to the tip indicating the cob is full.

"Kernels should be at the milk stage. Check by piercing a kernel with your fingernail. If a white milky liquid squirts out, then the corn is ripe. If the liquid is clear, then the corn is still immature. If the liquid is lumpy, then the cob is over mature but is still edible. The over mature corn won't be as sweet," she says.

Corn that isn't used immediately after it is picked should be cooled, she adds. Cooling will preserve sweetness as sugar is converted to starch as soon as the corn is harvested. The corn can be refrigerated or soaked in ice water.

Vine ripened tomatoes are another popular garden item. North says gardeners can promote vine ripening by pruning flowers after August 1, topping staking varieties after August 1 and withholding water from the plants.

"Pruning flowers and topping the plants will allow the plant to put more energy into the existing fruit," she says.

Although vine-ripen tomatoes are a goal, sometimes the late summer and early fall weather doesn't co-operate, so tomatoes have to be harvested when they are green. Tomatoes will ripen indoors when they lose their dark green color and turn yellowish green. "Tomatoes will ripen indoors, but keep them in a sunny windowsill rather than wrapping them in paper and storing them in a box. Sun ripened tomatoes will have 50 per cent more vitamin C than those ripened in the dark," she notes.

(Cont'd)

Harvesting your garden vegetables (cont'd)

Pruning vines to prevent flowering after August 1 on winter squash and pumpkin plants will also encourage those vegetables to ripen. Squash is mature when a thumbnail can't break the skin of the squash, she adds.

Onions are ready to harvest when the tops fall over naturally. "Breaking over the tops is not recommended because those onions won't mature properly or store as well.

"To promote maturity, withhold water after August 15. Also, you can lift onions slightly with a garden fork to break the feeder roots," says North.

After harvest, the onions need to be cured at a warm temperature (26 to 30 degrees Celsius) for a week to ten days. The tops will dry and the skin will get papery, and the onions will store better, she says. Onions should be stored at zero to three degrees Celsius.

For more information about harvesting, ripening and storing vegetables, contact North at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

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# Controlling white pine weevil

Wilting tops of pine and spruce trees at this time of year may be a sign of damage from white pine weevils says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"The first thing people notice is a wilting leader, or top, of the tree. Eventually needles on the leader and upper side branches will turn brown," says Pam North.

The adult white pine weevil looks like a beetle with a long projecting snout. It is small, about four to six millimetres long, and is dark brown or black. As adult weevils, the insects bore holes in the leader and lay their eggs. Hatched larvae feed under the tree bark.

"The damage is most evident at this time of year. Feeding activity cuts off the water supply to the tree top and the needles die," says North.

How to control the damage depends on whether the tree is pine or spruce. "With pine trees, just remove the infected leader. Because the larvae tunnel down in spruce trees, remove the leader and down to the next whorl of branches," says North. Leaders should be removed as soon as the damage is noticed, she adds.

The adults leave the trees and go into the ground to overwinter during August and September, so removing the leader may reduce overwinter weevil populations. Infested leaders should be burned.

A side branch can be trained upright to become the tree leader and retain the dominance of the tree, she says.

North says a pesticide can be used to control the weevils. Methoxychlor can be used in late April to spray the insects.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

September 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Combating cucumber scab

Garden clean-up and using new cucumber cultivars are two ways to battle a cucumber fungus that appeared in many gardens this summer says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"While cucumber scab is fairly common, warm humid weather brought more cases of the fungus to our attention," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Symptoms of cucumber scab can be found on both leaves and fruit. The most noticeable damage is on the fruit. Small water soaked spots are the first signs of cucumber scab. The spots can grow to cover the entire fruit. On larger cucumbers, the lesions look tan or corky. Humid weather produces spores that give the spots a greyish-green color. A brownish liquid sometimes is exuded and crystallizes. Pale brown spots may appear on the leaves.

A protective fungicide, benomyl, can be used to control the spread of the disease. "Before you spray, note the number of days required between spraying and harvest," cautions North.

"If you want to prevent cucumber scab next year, there are steps you can take. Sanitation is very important. Remove all cucumber vines and dispose of them. Don't dig or till them back into the garden," she says.

Rotation is also important. "Don't plant cucumbers in that spot for at least three years," she advises. She also says to try new cultivars that are resistant or tolerant to cucumber scab. This information is given in seed catalogues and on some seed packages.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

September 4, 1989
For immediate release

# 4-H club assembles anhydrous ammonia safety kits

Farmers and provincial 4-H organizations will benefit from a Calmar 4-H club work bee that assembled 3,000 anhydrous ammonia safety kits.

About 20 club members and their leader Gordon Schaber, spent an evening putting together the kits for Sherritt Gordon Ltd. Each kit contains a pair of protective gloves, chemical goggles, a water bottle and safety information.

Sherritt Gordon dealers and United Grain Growers will sell the kits to farmers across Western Canada. One dollar from each kit sold will go to support the respective provincial 4-H organization.

"Sherritt is concerned about the safety of farmers who use our products and that's why we have developed the anhydrous ammonia safety kit," says Rose Oleitschuk, Sherritt area manager.

"Because anhydrous burns are unforgiving, safe handling is critical. We appreciate the co-operation of the Calmar 4-H Club with this worthwhile project. Club members gained valuable insight about safety as well as contributing to the 4-H movement," says Ted Youck, head of Alberta's 4-H branch.

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Contact: Ted Youck
427-2541

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Contact: Ted Youck
427-2541

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# New district agriculturist in Drayton Valley

Drayton Valley's new district agriculturist has moved south to her new post after a four year stint in the Peace region.

Elaine Ryl had been Manning's district agriculturist since 1985. She went to Manning from Westlock where she was manager of the Pembina Forage Association for six years. She says both positions contributed valuable experience in pasture management, forage seed production and forage production.

"I'm looking forward to working with farm families in the Drayton Valley area," says Ryl. As district agriculturist she will provide farm families with farm production and management information and support.

Ryl graduated from the University of Alberta in 1977 with a BSc in Agriculture. She was raised in the Athabasca area on a mixed farm.

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Contact: Elaine Ryl
542-5368

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Agri-News Briefs

READY YOUR BINS FOR HARVEST

Storing grain in clean bins takes time before harvest, but saves work later. Old grain and debris should be removed from bins, elevators and other grain handling equipment and be taken to a landfill or burned. If insects are encountered, farmers should consider spraying their bins with malathion grain protectant. After cleaning bins, spray should be applied to walls, floors and grain handling machinery. Spray should be forced into cracks and crevices. The mixture should also be sprayed outside bins to help prevent re-infestation. The spray must have dried thoroughly before grain is loaded into the bins. Contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or regional entomologist for insect identification. High grain temperatures attract insects and insect infestations can cause grain to heat. Bin grain temperature should be monitored regularly. For more information on grain storage contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL 4-H LIGHT HORSE SHOW

The Bruderheim 4-H Light Horse Club hosted 22 4-H members and their horses at the north east regional show in late August. Carrie Lupul, of the the Lakeland Riders Club, earned senior high point honors. The junior high point award went to Shannon Janssen of the Bruderheim club. Points earned by the members were added together in a team score. The winning team included Lupul and Janssen. Other team members were: Stacey Seller, Birch Lake Bits'N Spurs; Nathan Carter, Birch Lake Bits'N Spurs; Jennifer Jones, Bruderheim Light Horse Club; and, Warren Toews, Waskatenau Multi Club. Jessie Strome, of Vermilion, was the show judge.

PROVISIONAL CANOLA COMMISSION BOARD

At its first meeting, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission provisional board elected Doug Elliott, of Mannville, as Commission chairman. Joining him on the executive are: Al Muchka, Acme,

(Cont'd)

Agri-news briefs (cont'd)

PROVISIONAL CANOLA COMMISSION BOARD (Cont'd)
vice-chairman; Ray Couchesne, Fort Saskatchewan, secretary-treasurer; Darrell Mohr, Fort Saskatchewan; and, Dave Lemke, Eckville. The provisional directors are: Henry Vos, Keg River; Gerald Gundby, Debolt; Marcel Maisonneuve, McLennan; Gary Haarsma, Edmonton; Ike Lanier, Lethbridge; Ken Perreault, Castor; and, Don Bruins, Medicine Hat. The provisional directors will serve until regular directors are elected by the membership in late 1990. The Commission's mandate includes research, market development and consumer awareness. Committees have been formed to work in these areas. Activity funding will come from service charges on all sales of canola by Alberta producers. The powers and responsibilities of the commission became effective August 1. For more information contact Doug Elliott in Mannville at 763-2265, Albert Schatzke in Edmonton at 454-0844 or Bob Simmons in Lethbridge at 327-6114.

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# GST will be bookkeeping headache for farmers

Tax-free status will reduce the financial impact the planned federal government Goods and Services Tax (GST) will have on farmers, but they will still face bookkeeping headaches and the overall effect of the tax on consumer demand and economic activity says an Alberta Agriculture tax specialist.

"Despite agriculture's tax free status, the overall effect of the tax will be as significant for farmers as any other Alberta industry," says Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Last month the federal government released a technical paper detailing how the GST will work. Its mechanisms are of particular interest to farmers, says Good. One major concern was addressed; the difficulty producers would have passing on the nine per cent tax to consumers. Farmers won't have to collect taxes from the sale of their products, including livestock with the exception of horses. But they will have to pay the tax when they purchase inputs for their farming operation.

The present manufacturers' sales tax has a list of exemptions. The GST won't, so farmers will have to pay the tax when they make purchases. For example, $900 in tax would be added to a $10,000 fertilizer bill. Although producers will have to pay this tax when they buy farm inputs, they can apply for a full refund of the tax they paid minus any tax owing.

Businesses, including farms, will calculate their net GST refunds monthly, quarterly or annually. Most farmers, says Good, will probably use the option for businesses with annual revenues of less than $500,000 to file annual returns and receive four quarterly installment payments of tax refunds during the year. That means farmers will apply for quarterly refunds based on purchases throughout the year with an annual reconciliation filed at their year end.

(Cont'd)

GST will be bookkeeping headache for farmers(cont'd)

Administrative procedures for tax collection and refunds will have a significant impact on the cash flow of most farm businesses. "It may be financially prudent to file monthly," says Good, "Farmers could have cash flow problems with the time lag between paying the extra cost of purchasing inputs and receiving a refund."

Capital assets of land and equipment will also be subject to the GST. There are two exceptions to the general rule in farmland sales. Farmland won't be taxed if it is sold as part of a going concern or if ownership is transferred between family members, says Good. Farmers will be required to pay tax on equipment purchases and collect the tax if they sell used equipment. Application can be made for tax refunds for land and equipment purchases.

"The old adage that 'the paper work is never done' will definitely apply when the GST becomes part of our federal government's taxation system," says Good. There is a little sugar on the pill. The government will offer a small business administration fee to offset the "costs of compliance". The fee, .4 per cent of total revenue to a maximum of $600, will be available when filing a year-end sales tax return.

Because farmers are also consumers, the effect of the GST will also be on a personal level. Like all other Canadians, farmers will be eligible for direct rebates to ease the effect of the GST on consumer goods. The maximum rebate will be $270 per year for an adult and $100 for each child.

"As consumers, farmers are skeptical whether businesses will automatically drop their prices to reflect the elimination of the manufacturers' sales tax or simply reduce the price somewhat and then add the nine per cent sales tax to this price. In addition, businesses will have to add the extra cost of compliance to their prices. Both of these strategies result in non-refundable price increases over and above the nine per cent sales tax levy," says Good.

Government grants, rebates and subsidies won't be taxable. "It also appears that national tripartite and crop insurance program payments will remain tax free as well, even if they aren't direct government subsidies," says Good.

(Cont'd)

GST will be bookkeeping headache for farmers (cont'd)

The proposed GST is scheduled to take effect in 1991 when the current manufacturers' sales tax will be eliminated. Finance Minister Michael Wilson has called the GST "revenue neutral".

Farm organizations and producers can present their views on the GST proposal to the House of Commons Finance Committee. It is holding public hearings beginning in mid-September. The Department of Finance will also continue to consult with interested parties throughout the fall. "However, substantial changes aren't likely after the end of the year," says Good.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

September 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Know your building insurance

On a cold sunny day after an early February blizzard George Andrews (not his real name) was doing chores on his broiler chicken farm near Edmonton.

While the blizzard had been severe and was preceded by freezing rain, all seemed well. But, as Andrews finished his morning chores he heard a loud crash from the next door building. When he went to investigate, he found the mess of a collapsed barn roof.

From a close inspection, he saw there was about two and half feet of snow on one side of the roof. The truss near the end had failed and almost all the others had pulled apart in succession. Fortunately, there wasn't a fire.

After recovering from his shock, the farmer contacted his insurance agent. He had been paying insurance dues for the last eight years, and now, he thought, it was time to collect. His next shock was that his policy didn't cover "damage due to the weight of ice or snow".

The small, but clear black and white print, also said, "damage due to electric arcing" wasn't covered by his "explosion" clause nor did "vandalism" include windows.

To be sure of the situation and the roof failure's cause, the insurance company sent an engineer to inspect the building. The barn had been insured for damaged caused by wind. Dennis Darby, Alberta Agriculture farm structures engineer, was also called to take a look at the building. Their investigation revealed another problem.

"It was immediately clear to us that the homemade roof trusses couldn't support half of the required design load. Even if the building was insured for snow load failure, the insurance company may have had a case for not paying," says Darby.

George Andrews's story has a valuable lesson for all farmers, says Darby. "The bottom line is: know what you are insured for and if you don't know, ask."

(Cont'd)

Know your building insurance (cont'd)

Insurance is available for practically all common perils, he notes. "Of course, the cost of insurance rises as the coverage is broadened," he adds.

"Insurance industry spokesmen say the most common shortcoming of farm policies is under insurance, or not insuring for losses incurred or the cost of going back into business if a disaster strikes," says Darby.

He recommends farmers assess their coverage in terms of both its amount and types of perils. Wind damage, snow and ice, vandalism, replacement cost rather than depreciated value, livestock and production losses are some of the types of coverage that might not be included in a standard policy, he says. They may be available through some extended coverage policies.

"If your insurance covers the proper perils, then you must make sure it covers all of your property. Does it include loafing barns, livestock, irrigation or other equipment? Is the coverage for replacement or depreciated value? Does it include farm business interruption? Is machinery breakdown included? Is there any consequential loss protection?

"Those are some of the major questions you have to answer when you choose farm insurance," he says.

Darby's final piece of advise is: "Above all, read the policy and ask questions."

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Contact: Dennis Darby
381-5114

September 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Electric fencing seminars in north and south

Alberta Agriculture is offering livestock producers two opportunities to learn more about electric fencing options at seminars in mid-October.

The seminars will be in Strathmore on October 18 and in Stony Plain on October 19, says Eric Hutchings, regional problem wildlife specialist in Lethbridge.

Alberta Agriculture specialists and industry representatives will make presentations on a variety of topics with activities culminating in an electric fence construction demonstration.

"Each seminar will start with an overview of electric fencing. Types, economics and effectiveness of electric fencing will be outlined by department engineers," says Hutchings. Other topics on the agenda are electricity and electric fencing, electric fencing supplies and accessories and predator damage control.

Two demonstrations round off activities in the afternoon. The first demonstration tests the sturdiness of corner posts and corner bracings. How to construct a high tensile electric fence is the second demonstration.

"The seminars are an ideal way for farmers, and even retail sales staff, to learn why electric fencing should be considered, how-to's in construction and what type of energizers and electrical accessories are currently available," Hutchings says.

Registration for the seminars closes on October 10. More information is available by contacting Strathmore district agriculturist Scott Meers at 934-3355 or Herb Plain, County of Parkland agricultural fieldman, at 963-2231.

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Contact: Eric Hutchings
381-5574

September 11, 1989
For immediate release

New district home economist in Bonnyville

Bonnyville's new district home economist comes to the north east region from Manitoba.

Elma Beckman graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1988 with bachelor's degree in human ecology. She was raised on a dairy and grain farm near Eriksdale, Manitoba, a community north of Winnipeg.

Last summer she became familiar with the workings of a district office when she worked at a Manitoba Department of Agriculture office in Russell. Among her duties were nutrition planning, 4-H activities and a display about chemically contaminated clothing.

"I'm looking forward to meeting and working with rural families in the Bonnyville area. As their district home economist, I look forward to providing effective programs and resources to help maintain and improve their well-being and incomes," she says.

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Contact: Elma Beckman
657-3311

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

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# Veterinary pathologist appointed in Airdrie

A new veterinary pathologist has joined the staff at Alberta Agriculture's Airdrie laboratory.

Mary VanderKop comes to the department from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon where she has worked as a veterinary diagnostic pathologist since 1982.

She will be doing the same type of work at the Airdrie lab. This includes examining animals to determine the cause of death, reporting back to the veterinarian involved and giving advice about prevention or treatment. As well, she will do disease research.

VanderKop earned three degrees from the University of Saskatchewan; a BSc in biology in 1976, a DVM in 1980 and a MVetSc specializing in pathology in 1985. She worked for a year in a Victoria, B.C. veterinary practice, starting as a medical research associate and then as a trainee in veterinary pathology before returning to university in 1981.

"I anticipate an enjoyable and challenging association with Alberta Agriculture in Airdrie," VanderKop says.

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Contact: Dr. Mary VanderKop
948-8575

September 11, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

PROVISIONAL PULSE COMMISSION COUNCIL

Alberta's new Pulse Commission has set up a provisional council with Lud Prudek, of Bow Island, as its president. Other members of the council are: Craig Shaw, vice president, Lacombe; Mary Anne Stanko, secretary, Lomond; and commissioners Jerry Bartosek, Cranford; Ken Kusk, Kelsey; Hugh Craig, Edmonton; Renald Lamoureax, Fort Saskatchewan; Bob Graham, Olds; Walter Cleland, Bow Island and Joe St. Denis, Morinville. The provisional commissioners were named by the Alberta Marketing Council. Elections will be held at annual meetings for both zone directors and commissioners. The Commission will be funded by a producer service charge and use the funds to promote the industry. Pulse crops include field peas, beans and lentils. Alberta's cool dry climate is suitable for their production. Large acreage pulse production is relatively new in the province, but new varieties and better production have doubled previous yields. Strong markets make pulse crops an attractive crop alternative for Alberta farmers. For more information about the commission contact Lud Prudek at 545-2619, Craig Shaw at 782-6618, Mary Anne Stanko, 792-2353 or Doug Edgar in Innisfail at 227-2443.

SOVIET AG STUDENTS VISIT THE PEACE

The second half of an exchange between Alberta and Soviet agriculture students is underway as a delegation from three Soviet agricultural colleges are hosted by Fairview College. Last spring Fairview College students went to the Soviet Union. The exchange is the first involving Canadian and Soviet agriculture students. While in Canada, the Soviet exchangees will spend a week with host farm families in the Peace, tour agricultural facilities throughout the Peace region and also visit Alberta tourist attractions of West Edmonton Mall and the

(Cont'd)

Agri-news briefs (cont'd)

SOVIET AG STUDENTS VISIT THE PEACE (Cont'd)

Rocky Mountains. They leave Alberta on September 25. Fairview College students began working on the exchange idea last September. For more information contact Shane Westin in Fairview at 835-6675.

THE BODY TEST

A 23-minute video, "The Body Test", asks 20 questions about diet, exercise, lifestyle, self-image, the new healthy weight concept and Body Mass Index (BMI). The questions make you think about your attitude about your body and what you're doing to it. At the end of the program, you can calculate your "body risk score". The CNC Communications produced video is now available through Alberta Agriculture's Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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# Coming Agricultural Events

**International Society of Arboriculture**
Prairie Chapter meeting
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... September 10 - 13
Brendan Casement - 472-6043 - Edmonton

**10th Western Nutrition Conference**
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... September 13 - 14
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon

**National Dairy Council of Canada Annual Convention**
Hyatt Regency
Vancouver, British Columbia..... September 17 -20
Dale Tulloch - (613)238-4116 - Ottawa

**Professional Plant Growers Association**
22nd International Conference
and 10th trade show
Cincinnati Exposition Centre
Cincinnati, Ohio..... October 1 - 5
PPGA office - (517)694-7700 - Lansing, Michigan

**14th Annual Poultry Servicemens' Workshop**
Chateau Lake
Louise Lake Louise ..... October 3 - 5
Rod Chernos - 948-8533 - Airdrie

**Dairy Herdsman Assistant Program**
Olds College Olds ..... October 10
Livestock production programmer - 556-8344 - Olds

**Soil and Water Short Courses**
(for Agricultural Fieldmen)
Olds College Olds
(three one week courses beginning) ..... October 16
Doug Peters - 556-8321 - Olds;
Tim Deitzler - 230-1401 - MD of Rockyview

**National Animal Health Week**..... October 16 -22

**Advanced Sheep Production Course and Tour**
Olds College Olds ..... October 19 - 20
Livestock production programmer - 556-8344 - Olds

**National Outstanding Young Farmers Program (10th Anniversary)**
Westin Hotel and Stampede Grounds
Calgary..... October 20 - 23
Maxine Strand - 261-0313 - Calgary

**Canadian Agricultural Finance Conference**
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba ..... October 29 - November 1
Marc-Andre Lacombe - (416)362-6092 -
Toronto, Ontario

**Northlands Farm Fair**
Agricom
Edmonton..... November 2-11
Leroy Emerson - 471-7260 - Edmonton

**Alberta Horticultural Congress (3rd annual)**
Coast Terrace and Convention Inn Hotel
Edmonton..... November 2 - 4
Dietrich Kuhlmann - 475-7500 - Edmonton

**Farm tax update seminar for lawyers and accountants**
Medicine Hat ..... November 3
Calgary..... November 4
Grande Prairie..... November 5
Edmonton..... November 6
Merle Good - 556-4240 - Olds

**Alberta Feed Industry Conference**
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer..... November 7 - 8
Don Scheer - 422-0015 - Edmonton

**International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference**
Anaheim Convention Centre
Anaheim, California..... November 12 - 15
Dennis Roll - 948-8540 - Airdrie

**Seed Technology Workshop**
Olds College Olds ..... November 14 - 15
Jennifer O'Halloran - 556-8321 - Olds;
Bill Witbeck - 782-4641 - Lacombe

**Alberta Women In Support of Agriculture Convention**
Sheraton Hotel
Calgary..... November 16 - 17
Elaine Degg - 936-5991 - Langdon

**Maritime Pork Conference**
Colliseum
Moncton, New Brunswick ..... November 17 - 18
Mario Maillet -(506)739-9545 -
Edmundston, New Brunswick

**Canadian Dehydrators Conference**
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton..... November 20 - 22
Jerome Martin - 492-3116 - Edmonton

**Oats: A New Beginning (Oat Producers Association of Alberta Symposium)**
Convention Inn
Edmonton..... November 22 - 23
Emile de Milliano - 427-7366 - Edmonton

**Alberta Potato Marketing Board Annual Convention**
Sheraton Cavalier
Calgary..... November 22 -24
Jan Brown - 291-2430 - Calgary

**Alberta Cow Calf Association Convention (6th annual)**
Cedar Park Inn
Edmonton..... November 24
Alban Bugei - 724-2296 - Elk Point

**Canadian Western Agribition**
Exhibition Grounds
Regina,.....November 25 - December 1
Mark Allan - (306)565-0565 - Regina, Saskatchewan

**Alberta Wheat Pool Annual Meeting**
Palliser Hotel
Calgary.....November 27 - December 8
Doug Brunton - 290-4647 - Calgary

**Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta Annual Convention**
Nisku Inn
Nisku ..... November 29 - 30
Paul Eastwood - John Gurnett - 428-6981 - Edmonton

**Alberta Sheep Symposium**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....November 30 - December 2
Wray Whitmore - 427-5083 - Edmonton

**Western Stock Growers 94th Annual Convention and Short Course**
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel and Lethbridge Research Centre
Lethbridge ..... December 12 - 14
Terry Davis - 250-9121 - Calgary

# 1990 Events

**Western Canadian Wheat Growers (20th Anniversary) annual meeting**
Ramada Renaissance
Regina, .....January 3 - 6,
Janice Siekawitch - (306)586-5866 - Regina, Saskatchewan

**Unifarm Convention**
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton.....January 8 -11
Willow Webb - 451-5912 - Edmonton

**Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference**
Capri Centre
Red Deer.....January 12 - 14
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary

**1st Joint Convention--Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta and British Columbia and the Saskatchewan Manitoba Implement Dealers Association**
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton.....January 18 - 20
William J. Lipsey - 250-7581 - Calgary

**Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association Annual convention**
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton.....January 18 -20
Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association - 489-1991 - Edmonton

**"Best in the West" Hortlculture Trade Show**
Hilton International
Edmonton.....January 18 -20
Judith Dreisig - 489-1991 - Edmonton

**Alberta Canola Growers Association**
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton.....January 24 - 26
Albert Schatzke - 454-0844 - Edmonton

**Banff Pork Seminar**
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff.....January 27 - 30
Jerome Martin - 492-3116 - Edmonton

**Alberta Branch, Canadian Seed Growers' Association**
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....January 31 - February 1
Bill Witbeck - 782-4641 - Lacombe

**Dairy Herdsman Assistant Program**
Olds College Olds.....February 5
Livestock production programmer - 556-8344 - Olds

**Alberta Dairyman's Association Annual Meeting and Convention**
Edmonton Convention Center
Edmonton..... February 5 - 7
Lawrence McKnight - 453-5942 - Edmonton

**Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry (10th annual)**
Marlborough Inn
Calgary..... February 11 -12
John Melicher - 451-5959 - Edmonton

**Western Barley Growers 13th Annual Convention and Trade Fair**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village..... February 14 - 16
Anne Schneider - 291-3630 - Calgary

**Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association 20th Annual Convention**
Skyline Hotel
Calgary..... February 22 - 24
Randy Poole - (306)522-2710 - Regina,

**Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 4 - 7
Trish Stiles - 556-4276 - Olds

**Farming for the Future Conference**
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge.....March 14 - 15
Sharon Abbott - 427-1956 - Edmonton

**Pulse Growers Annual Meeting**
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....March 22 - 23
Blair Roth - 381-5127 - Lethbridge

**Western Canadian Dairy Seminar**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 27 - 30
Jerome Martin - 492-3116 - Edmonton

**Highway Clean-up by 4-H clubs**..... May 5

**Swine Feeder's Day**
Swine research unit, University of Alberta
Edmonton..... May 31
Frank Aherne - 492-2118 - Edmonton

**International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA) Reunion**
Olds College Olds.....June 17 - 24
Bernice Luce - 783-2085 - Ponoka

**International Air Seeder Technology Conference**
Regina, June 19 - 21
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon

**Canadian Hereford Association's 100th Birthday**
Port O'Call Inn
Calgary..... July 3- 5
Bev Leavitt - 227-5246 - Innisfail

**University of Alberta Ranch Day**
University of Alberta Ranch
Kinsella..... July 5
Mac Makarechian - 492-1316 - Edmonton

**Conferderacion Interamericana de Ganderos (CIAGA)**
Hosted by Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA)
Convention Centre
Calgary..... July 13 - 17
Post conference tour..... July 18 - 26
Norma Dunn - 282-8181 - Calgary

**Air Seeding 1990--An International Conference**
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... July 19 - 21
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon

**Bonanza '90--Canadian Junior Hereford Association annual show**
Olds College
Olds.....August 1- 4
Joy Gregory - 275-2662 - Calgary

# Coming Agricultural Events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in December, 1989 or early in 1990? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

- Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

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Please return this form by November 24, 1989 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed December 4, 1989.)

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# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

OCT - 2 1989

September 18, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Isley announces beekeeping advisory committee

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced the formation of the Beekeeping Industry Advisory Committee. The Agriculture Minister ordered the formation of the advisory committee in recognition of the difficulties currently facing the beekeeping industry in Alberta.

The six-member committee has been charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture concerning problems now affecting the economic viability of the beekeeping industry. The committee will also formulate recommendations for the Minister addressing the long-term objectives of the industry in the domestic and international honey markets.

"The beekeeping industry in Alberta has experienced a number of setbacks in recent years. We must take a good look at the problems facing beekeepers, so that we can develop an effective plan of action to help strengthen the industry," says Isley.

The advisory committee is expected to present a preliminary report within a month, addressing the most immediate problems affecting the industry. Recommendations regarding long-term industry objectives are to be submitted to the Minister within the next six months.

The Beekeeping Industry Advisory Committee is chaired by Walter Paszkowski, MLA for Smoky River. The other members of the committee are: Jim Christensen, a beekeeper representing the central region of the province; Jim Hale, a beekeeper from the northern region; Dale Philpott, a beekeeper from the southern region; Rick Sloan, of the Northern Alberta Development Council; and, Don Tannas, MLA for Highwood. Paul van Westendorp, provincial apiculturist with Alberta Agriculture, is the committee secretary.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive Assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

Paul van Westendorp
427-7098

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Rain delays harvest progress

Frequent rains through late August and early September have delayed harvesting and affected the quality of crops across the province.

The total of swathed crops was on line with the three-year average at 45 per cent swathed by September 5. But at the same time, only 15 per cent of the province's crops had been harvested.

"That total is about ten per cent less than the three year average," says Michelle Timko, crops statistician with Alberta Agriculture. Rain kept combines from fields, she adds.

"Rain was frequent through the province during the last half of August. From mid-month about two-thirds of the days had rain," says Peter Dzikowski, weather resource specialist. In most parts of the province August precipitation was above normal, he adds. The exceptions were the northern Peace region and areas north and east of Edmonton except Cold Lake. Grande Prairie, on the other hand, recorded 307 per cent of its average long term rainfall.

He says this season's precipitation was near normal in most parts of the province except the south east, where it was slightly below normal but better than last year. As well, precipitation was timely and evenly distributed.

"The bad news was that the rain continued into the harvest season. While this rain hasn't been good for swathed and mature standing crops, there is some good news. In some places, the August rains have replenished soil moisture, improved pastures for fall grazing and added to water levels in farm dugouts," he says.

The late rains have meant reevaluation of expected crop yields says Timko. Provincial yield estimates, currently at average or slightly above average, are expected to decline. Sprouting in the swaths, shattered heads, lodging, diseases that thrive in damp conditions and standing water making low areas inaccessible have contributed to expected reduced yields.

(Cont'd)

Rain delays harvest progress (cont'd)

Widespread killing frosts the weekend of September 8 have also contributed to headaches of farmers worried about both swathed and standing crops. Some areas reported frosts on two consecutive nights. Sunday morning temperatures were as low as minus seven in some areas.

Frost affects crop quality. It is a particular concern for livestock producers. "Frost damage impairs the plants ability to convert nitrate from the roots into protein. Excess nitrate can accumulate and eventually cause problems if the forage is fed to livestock," says laboratory nutritionist Barry Yaremcio. High levels of nitrates in feed can poison ruminant animals.

He advises that damaged crops be cut as soon as possible to minimize deterioration. In particular producers should be concerned about late-seeded greenfeed crops.

Almost all feeds containing nitrates can be safely fed to livestock if they are managed properly, he adds. High nitrate forage should be kept separate from other feed sources and diluted with nitrate free seed before feeding. "The only way you can be confident about nitrate levels in feed is to have it tested. District offices have boxes, bags and hay probes available for farmers' use and samples can be sent to our lab," he says.

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Contact: Michelle Timko
427-4011

Peter Dzikowski
427-4028

Barry Yaremcio
436-9150

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Economics of drying grain

Many farmers have successfully used grain dryers to make a profit from crops that autumn rain clouds have tried to wash away.

"Racing against time and the weather at harvest usually brings up the economics of drying grain, especially in a year like this one where rain is playing havoc in the harvest season," says Garth Nickorick, an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist.

An Alberta Agriculture publication, "The Economics of Grain Drying", can help farmers make a decision whether drying grain is right for their operation.

"The publication is a guide that helps the farmer answer four basic questions: 'What are the advantages and disadvantages?'; 'Is it profitable?'; 'How will it effect cash flow?'; and, 'What are the risks?'," says Nickorick.

"By artificially drying grain, farmers can gain harvest time both in hours and days and minimize field losses, but there are other considerations that the guide outlines," he adds.

"The Economics of Grain Drying" is available by contacting the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6 and quoting Agdex 825-21. More information and the publication are also available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the farm business management branch in Olds at 427-4240.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
427-4247

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Fall soil testing good management

Fall soil testing is an excellent management practice to help plan next year's cropping program and make fertilizer decisions says an Alberta Agriculture soils specialist.

"To ensure accurate test results and reliable recommendations, careful planning is needed when you are soil sampling," says Len Kryzanowski, of the Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory.

The timing and depth of soil sampling are important factors when collecting soil samples, he says. Fallow and irrigated stubble fields should be sampled in late fall, after mid-October and just before freeze-up. Soil samples should be taken to a depth of 60 cm (24 inches) at intervals of zero to 15 cm (zero to six inches), 15 to 30 cm (six to 12 inches) and 30 to 60 cm (12 to 24 inches).

Non-irrigated stubble and established forage crop fields can be sampled as early as mid-September. "Sampling the zero to 15 cm (zero to six inch) depth may be adequate but an additional 15 to 30 cm (six to 12 inches) depth sample is desirable," he says.

If the field has a fall seeded crop, samples can be taken up to one month before seeding. The recommended sampling depth depends on whether the field is fallow or stubble and irrigated or not, he adds.

"It's very difficult to collect a representative soil sample from a field that has had fertilizer applied prior to sampling. So it's recommended that soil samples be taken prior to fall fertilizer applications," says Kryzanowski.

Soil test results and subsequent recommendations are only as good as the soil sample collected. There are several key things to do when collecting a soil sample, he says.

First, don't sample frozen or waterlogged soils. Second, samples should be representative of a uniform area.

(Cont'd)

Fall soil testing good management (cont'd)

"You might have to size up each field before you sample and subdivide it into different areas based on observations of field variations in crop growth, yield, soil texture, soil color, slope of the land, degree of erosion, drainage and past management. Avoid unusual areas--back furrows, old straw, hay or manure piles, waterways, saline spots, eroded knolls and old fence rows. Separate samples should be taken from a sizable area where growth is significantly different from the rest of the field," he says.

Each field requires random samples from ten to 20 places to form a composite sample. Labs need about a pound of soil for each depth to do the analyses. Depth samples should be taken at the same time as surface samples as crops can use nitrogen to a depth of 60 cm (24 inches). It's also important to keep samples from each depth separate.

Each sample should be spread out to dry on a clean sheet of plastic as soon as it is collected, unless the samples are delivered to a laboratory the same day as sampling. Freezing the sample is an alternative, if it can't be dried immediately.

Information sheets should be completed in full indicating the planned crop and note any unusual problems. "You should keep a duplicate copy," adds Kryzanowski.

Soil samples should be sent to a reputable soil testing laboratory that uses methods of soil analyses and recommendations based on research in Alberta, he says.

"There are a number of private laboratories farmers can use. Many can provide quick analysis of soil samples, plus recommendations. Farmers needing results in a short time period are encouraged to use the private laboratories," says Kryzanowski. Alberta Agriculture's Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory also provides a soil testing service for farmers.

Soil test reports from the samples provide measurements of available nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur and levels of soil pH, salinity, texture and free lime. Additional analyses can also be requested.

(Cont'd)

Fall soil testing good management (cont'd)

To obtain a soil sampling probe and information about soil testing, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office. Fertilizer dealers can also be contacted to assist with soil sampling.

Information is also available from the Agriculture Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory, 9th floor, O.S. Longman building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4P2 or call 436-9150 (427-6362 on the RITE system).

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Contact: Len Kryzanowski
427-6362

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Shelterbelt trees already popular

Over 2.5 million shelterbelt tree plants are available to Alberta farmers next spring to protect their fields and farmsteads says the supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's shelterbelt program.

"Already one third of these plants have been allocated to farmers who applied early for shelterbelt trees through their district agriculturist. Farmers who are planning to put in a shelterbelt in the spring of 1990 need to apply as soon as possible for their trees," says Brendan Casement.

Farmers who apply late may be disappointed, he says. Shelterbelt trees are provided free to encourage their use in protecting soil and crops from wind erosion and damage. "There has been a good response to the change in policy that makes the shelterbelt trees free again," he says.

A field windbreak definition is used to provide the free trees and it's strictly enforced, he adds. The shelterbelt must be longer than half a kilometre and be planted to prevent loss of soil, to reduce wind damage to field crops and to protect production fields. Applicants also must sketch in where and how the trees will be planted in their application.

"If the application doesn't satisfy the definition, the applicants are advised, their order is placed as a regular application for trees and they are charged accordingly," says Casement.

Free plants are also available to replace trees that didn't establish themselves over the last three years. "Those applications will be checked for accuracy," adds Casement.

District agriculturists have application forms for the shelterbelt plants. Applications must be made before November 1 to receive trees for next spring.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
472-6043

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Sign up for Gear Up Advantage

Farmers and farm couples have the opportunity to take an in-depth look at management of their farm operation through Alberta Agriculture's new Gear Up Advantage program.

"Gear Up Advantage is very similar to the Gear Up Financially course we've run over the last four years, except the new course puts an emphasis on management of the whole farm and not just the financial aspect of running a farm," says Gordon McNaughton, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

At the core of Gear Up Advantage is gaining a basic understanding of the main financial statements. "Participants will develop their own balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement. These statements are very useful in dealing with the banker from a position of strength and knowing what your business is all about," he says.

Each Alberta Agriculture district office has 40 spots for people interested in the course. Flexibility is a key feature of the program, so individual offices will offer the courses to suit the needs and busy schedules of farm participants. The course will run through the winter months of the next three years.

McNaughton says he encourages farm couples to take the course together. "Today's young farmers are definitely a management team. The couple are the owners and the managers, so taking the course together strengthens a couple's ability to manage the farm as a team."

Farmers who have already taken Gear Up Financially may still be interested in Gear Up Advantage. "Marketing is new in this course and it has a broader farm management perspective, but be prepared for a fair bit of repetition in the core financial material," he says.

Because enrollment is limited, farmers are encouraged to register with their Alberta Agriculture district offices now, says McNaughton. They can also contact their nearest district office for more information about Gear Up Advantage.

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Contact: Gordon McNaughton
556-4236

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Wild rice recipe double winner

A wild rice harvest salad recipe won the Alberta Wild Rice Growers Association recognition at a recent provincial food contest.

"Our entry tied with Crystal Spring Cheese Farms for first place and also won the People's Choice Award," says Colleen Pierce, Lac La Biche district home economist.

Pierce and Dave Burdek, manager of the Alberta Wild Rice Association, selected the recipe for the "Direct from the farm" food contest for new recipes or food products. The contest was sponsored by Canadian Pacific Hotels & Resorts, Duck Worth Farms and the Alberta Farm Women's Network.

"We selected the harvest salad because it contains a variety of Alberta food products, it's nutritious and can easily be added to a salad bar or as an entree in restaurants," says Pierce. The recipe they used was adapted from one of Alice Ptolemy's, a wild rice grower from the Athabasca area.

During the two day event Pierce and Burdek distributed over 1,000 two ounce samples of the salad featuring wild rice, chicken and vegetables.

The Alberta Wild Rice Growers Association received $250 in prize money, an opportunity to sign a contract to supply wild rice to Canadian Pacific Hotels & Resorts, an invitation to exhibit at the November Food Festival and a one year membership in the Alberta Farm Women's Network.

"This contest was an excellent showcase for Alberta wild rice. For our producers, this exposure is an important part of marketing our Alberta product," says Burdek.

Judging the "Farm direct to you" contest were: Maurice O'Flyn, executive director of the Alberta Culinary Arts Foundation; David Dolina, chef at the Edmonton Convention Centre; and, Iver Petrak, the senior vice president of Canadian Pacific Hotels & Resorts.

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Contact: Colleen Pierce 623-5218
David Burdek 623-5218

Editor's note: Wild Rice Harvest Salad recipe follows.

## WILD RICE HARVEST SALAD

4 cups cooked wild rice (about one cup uncooked)
1 cup cooked chicken, cubed
1/4 cup sliced celery
1/2 cup broccoli florets
1/2 cup red pepper, chopped
4 green onions
1/2 cup toasted almonds

Dressing:
1/2 cup light Miracle Whip
1/2 cup plain yogurt
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. sugar
3/4 tsp. celery salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

Wash rice thoroughly. Place the wild rice, 4 cups water and 1 tsp. salt in a three-quart heavy saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 45 to 60 minutes, or until rice has puffed slightly and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Fluff rice with a fork and cook, uncovered, to evaporate any excess liquid. Cool and toss with about 1 Tbsp. cooking oil to prevent the grains of rice from sticking together.

Combine the wild rice with the chicken, celery, broccoli, red pepper and onions. Add the dressing and toss gently. Chill to blend flavors. Mix in the toasted almonds prior to serving.

Serves 4 to 6 people.

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# 1989 Queen Mother scholarship recipients

Three University of Alberta students have been named the 1989 recipients of "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother" scholarships.

Leonard Hendricks, Lorna Cousins, and Tracy Hueppelsheuser will receive $1500 awards in recognition of their academic achievement, leadership abilities and contribution to the community.

LEONARD HENDRICKS

LORNA COUSINS

TRACY HUEPPELSHEUSER

Hendricks, 17, is in his first year of the BSc in agriculture program at the University of Alberta. Raised on a farm near Strathmore, Alberta, he has been an active 4-H member since 1981. He was also a player and referee with the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association, president of both his high school students' union and newspaper and helped organize his local church youth group.

A consistent honour roll student, Hendricks has previously received the University of Alberta Leadership Award.

(Cont'd)

1989 Queen Mother scholarship recipients (cont'd)

Cousins, 19, is entering her third year of home economics at the University of Alberta. She was an active 4-H member and junior leader and has held numerous record keeping, public speaking and grooming workshops in her local area of Craigmyle, Alberta.

Cousins has been very involved in school and community activities over the years and was a member of the 1986 provincial girls' curling championship foursome.

Hueppelsheuser, 20, from Blackfalds, Alberta, is taking her fourth year of agriculture at the University of Alberta. She is currently president of the Edmonton 4-H Alumni and an active member of the Agriculture Club at the U of A. She has been very involved in the International and Alberta Flying Farmers and is a level one certified downhill ski racing coach.

Over the last six years Hueppelsheuser has given public speaking workshops to several 4-H clubs.

This scholarship, sponsored by the Alberta government, was presented as a gift to the Queen Mother when she was in Alberta attending the World Angus Forum in July, 1985. The scholarship recognizes and assists deserving young Albertans in their first, second, third or fourth year of study in the fields of agriculture, home economics, veterinary science (large animal) or agricultural engineering.

The "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother" Scholarship is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, administered by the 4-H Branch of Alberta Agriculture and given out in the name of Her Majesty, the Queen Mother.

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Contact: Anita Styba
422-4444

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Trade policy analysts appointed

Two senior trade policy analysts have recently been appointed to Alberta Agriculture's trade policy secretariat.

Darcy Willis and Bryant Fairley will be responsible for trade policy analysis and liaison with industry groups. They will examine issues related to the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, the Canada-U.S. trade agreement and the impact of domestic policies on international trade.

DARCY WILLIS

BRYANT FAIRLEY

Willis joins the secretariat from Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch where he was trade statistician for just over a year.

He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1985 with a BSc in agriculture. He majored in agricultural economics. Before joining the department he worked as meat trader with Canada Packers for three years. Willis was born and raised in the Hanna/Castor area.

Fairley was mostly recently an assistant political science professor at the University of Alberta. Currently, he is completing a doctoral thesis on government intervention in Canadian and American agriculture industries.

(Cont'd)

Trade policy analysts appointed (cont'd)

A Maritimer, Fairley received his undergraduate degree from Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. He received his MA from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario in 1983.

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Contact: Darcy Willis
427-2637

Bryant Fairley
427-2637

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

Three Hills has new district agriculturist

Three Hills new district agriculturist is returning to the community after working in a "hill" of a different name.

Kenneth King spent the last 13 months as district agriculturist in Two Hills. He spent the previous five years as agronomist and assistant manager with Green Leaf Farm Supply in Three Hills. While there, he helped clients develop and implement cropping programs as well as assisting with management of the fertilizer/farm chemical dealership.

King is a 1983 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program. He also earned a diploma in crop production from Olds College in 1977.

"I'm really looking forward to working with farmers in the Three Hills district again," he says.

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Contact: Kenneth King
443-8525

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

September 18, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

CRIMINOLOGY BREAKTHROUGH HAS AGRICULTURAL IMPLICATION

Researchers at McGill University are applying some of the latest genetic technologies used by criminologists to Holstein dairy cattle. The team of scientists has been studying a new method of confirming cattle pedigrees. For years, cattle have been pedigree tested using blood samples, but this method was never able to confirm a pedigree, just disprove one. Now, a breakthrough from the science of criminology may make these tests obsolete. The new method identifies certain portion's of a cow's DNA (genes) that are unique to that animal but also inherited from her dam and sire. By matching up patterns from the dam, sire and offspring, pedigree confirmation is possible. This method was developed by criminologists to positively identify a criminal from blood or tissue evidence. The McGill scientists presented their research findings at the Canadian Society of Animal Science annual conference in Montreal this summer.

ANESTHETICS ON PLANT SEEDS

An American agricultural researcher is trying to make plant seeds take a nap and then wake up refreshed and ready to germinate. The sleep technique has many uses. It's one way to preserve seeds from a wide variety of plants. It could also be used to prepare seeds for "surgery" by scientists who want to develop new plant varieties that can resist diseases, withstand drought or add additional nutrients to diets. Research chemist Sharon Sowa says her goal is to treat seeds the way doctors treat their patients. "The same anesthetics such as nitrous oxide (laughing gas) that are used to slow human respiration during surgery also slow the life processes inside seeds." Nitrous oxide is a permeable molecule. It goes in and out of plant cells very easily without causing any damage. In tests on snap beans, a mixture of 80 per cent nitrous oxide and air was blown over the seeds slowing cell respiration in the beans by 35 per cent. That was enough to anesthetize

(Cont'd)

Agri-News Briefs (cont'd)

ANESTHETICS ON PLANT SEEDS (cont'd)

the seeds. Half an hour later, Sowa revived the seeds by exposing them to fresh air. She says all the seeds eventually woke up and germinated normally. Sowa works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture national seed laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado.

NEW VIDEOS IN FILM LIBRARY

Videos on food irradiation and swine estimated breeding values are two of the newest additions to the Alberta Agriculture Film Library. The International Consultive Group on Food Irradiation produced the 29 minute video on food irradiation. Despite deep freezing and other food preservation technologies, too many food products still go to waste. One-quarter to one-third of total food production is lost during the various stages after harvest. Food irradiation is a new food processing technology that can help reduce these losses. Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) are the latest statistical method to evaluate the genetic worth of swine breeding stock. This new evaluation system separates genetic from environmental influences on a pig's performance. It includes factors such as pedigree and sib information, heritability of measured traits, the amount of pedigree and progeny information available and genetic traits in the breed. The 17-minute video was produced by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Both videos are available through the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 by quoting their numbers. "Food Irradiation" is 981 VT and "Legacy (Estimated Breed Value)" is 440-35 VT.

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

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# Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan extended

Premier Don Getty and Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley have announced a one-year extension of the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan. The plan will be continued until July 31, 1990.

"Alberta's farm input costs are among the lowest in Canada. Government programs like the Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan play a big role in keeping costs down. We are very pleased to be able to extend this important initiative for Alberta farm families," says Premier Getty.

The program extension is estimated to be worth savings of about $21 million to the province's farmers. To date, the Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan has paid out in excess of $75 million to more than 39,000 Alberta farmers.

"The province's farmers buy about $300 million worth of fertilizer each year. Fertilizer payments can represent as much as 30 percent of a producer's cash input costs, so the Fertilizer Price Protection Plan has been a very important part of our strategy to reduce farm input costs," says Isley.

With the extension announced today, fertilizer purchased and applied to July 31, 1990 will be eligible for the fertilizer rebate. Farmers will have until January 31, 1991 to submit claims under the program.

The program will continue to pay grants calculated on the basis of $50 per tonne of actual nitrogen and $25 per tonne of actual phosphate used during the eligible period. For example, the grant for anhydrous ammonia is about $41 per tonne, while the grant for ammonium phosphate is about $19 per tonne.

The program covers fertilizer used on Alberta farmland only. Eligible applicants include individual farmers, corporations, partnerships and other organizations farming land owned, leased or rented for the purpose of crop or forage production.

(Cont'd)

Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan exteneded (cont'd)

For further information on the program or to obtain application forms, farmers should contact their local Alberta Agriculture district agriculture office.

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Contact: Hugh Dunne
Director of Communications
Office of the Premier
427-2251

Brad Klak
Executive Assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

Lloyd Andruchow
Central Program Support
422-5672

September 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Moldy feeds present problems

Rain has not only dented harvest progress but has caused problems for producers putting up dry feeds for their livestock.

"Many samples received by our Soil and Animal Nutrition Laboratory have contained high moisture levels. Moisture levels above 16 per cent promote mold growth and can cause feeds that were put up damp or wet to spoil," says Abdul Suleiman, laboratory nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

Toxins produced by the molds, reduced feed intakes and allergic reactions are concerns for farmers who plan to use moldy feeds, he says.

"Although molds that produce toxins are widespread and the potential for poisoning is always present, molds seldom do such harm since environmental conditions conducive to toxin production are complex and often not present," Suleiman says.

Because mold uses the energy and protein from the feed it grows on, the feed loses five to 25 per cent of its digestible energy. Noticeable mold growth may reduce feeding value by ten per cent. "Not only does the nutritive value of the feed deteriorate, but cattle tend to eat less of even slightly moldy feed. A major effect of reduced consumption is a significant reduction in nutrient intake," he says.

Reduced feed and nutrient intake are especially critical after calving when a cow's energy requirements increase by 25 per cent. If a cow doesn't increase her feed intake, her body condition will drop. Calf gains may also suffer. Suleiman says the best way to increase nutrient intake is to supplement moldy hay with grain or canola meal.

Luxuriant mold growth on forage or grain produces spores that make the feed "dusty". "The spores are potent allergens and when inhaled or eaten can cause allergic reactions or sensitivities in the animal. The animal can become hypersensitized and with continued exposure or re-exposure have a severe allergic reaction, allergic pneumonia--sometimes called atypical interstitial pneumonia--or anaphylectic shock," he says.

(Cont'd)

Moldy feeds present problems (cont'd)

As a general guideline, moldy hay or silage shouldn't be routinely fed to livestock, he says. For example, moldy sweet clover may contain dicoumarol that interferes with normal blood clotting. Animals can bleed to death from any minor injury or from internal bleeding because of mold induced clotting defects.

"If moldy sweet clover must be fed, it should be used intermittently. If it's fed every other week, the animal has a chance to get rid of circulating harmful products from the mold. The safest thing to do is to discard moldy sweet clover forage," he advises.

"Often farmers may want to use moldy feeds for economic reasons. They should be aware that there are risks and they should consider alternatives," Suleiman says. "Reduced feed intake, reduced animal productivity, abortion and death are some of those risks. Risks are lower to feeder livestock than for breeding stock as miscarriages are one problem."

Cattle, sheep and goats are generally more resistant to the effects of mold than other animals such as pigs and poultry. While there are no definite guidelines for feeding moldy feed, Suleiman has a few suggestions for feeds that have significant amounts of visible mold.

Moldy feed should be diluted to less than 20 per cent of the total ration. It should be introduced into feed rations slowly, starting with five per cent and gradually increased to the maximum of 20 per cent, he says.

Producers should avoid using moldy feeds when rapid gains are desired, but can use them in maintenance rations or rations designed for moderate growth rates. Lactating dairy and beef cows shouldn't be given moldy feed. Livestock should be checked to ensure their ration intake containing moldy feed is sufficient to provide all required nutrients.

"Closely watch livestock for signs of illness or a decrease in performance. Feeder cattle may go off feed. Respiratory distress may occur suddenly. If you are feeding to breeding stock, abortions will take some time to show up.

(Cont'd)

Moldy feeds present problems (cont'd)

"If you have moldy feed and want to use it in livestock rations, you may want to consult Alberta Agriculture nutritionists, regional livestock and or dairy specialists. They can assist you in incorporating moldy feeds in your rations," he says.

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Contact: Abdul Suleiman
436-9150

September 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Fall lawn care

A rainy fall could help farm families preparing their lawns for the winter says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Lawns don't need water as frequently as they do in the summer, but they do need water before the ground freezes so there is moisture available for roots in the spring," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

If fall weather is dry, lawns should be watered occasionally so moisture can get to the roots. Moisture shouldn't be frequent, because grass growth should be slowed down.

As well, she says, fertilizer shouldn't be applied any later than mid-August. "We recommend stopping then so the lawn has enough time to harden off before winter. Lawns that are actively growing in the fall, may be damaged by an early winter," she adds.

Mowing should be continued as long as the grass is growing. Lawns shouldn't be left to grow too long in the fall because it may be susceptible to snow mold. "Long grass can also be a hiding place for mice. They can do considerable amounts of damage to a lawn," she adds.

Nor should grass be cut too short. "This could expose the crowns of the grass to freezing or desiccation injury, particularly if there isn't adequate snow cover," North says. A normal mowing height of four to five centimetres (one and a half to two inches) is best, she adds.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

September 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Autumn needle shed

Yellow and brown needles in the late summer and fall aren't necessarily a sign of a diseased pine tree says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Most often this is just the natural shedding of needles," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Most pines only keep their needles for three to four years. Eventually they turn color--yellow and brown--and fall off the tree. Those needles aren't replaced. But, trees get new growth on branch ends in the spring, she says.

North says to make sure the needle shed is the natural process, check trees carefully for other signs of insects or disease. If trees are under stress from drought, poor soil fertility, transplant shock or pesticide damage, they will shed even more needles. "Consult a horticulturist or district agriculturist if you aren't sure what is causing the needle shed," she says.

Pines aren't the only evergreens that shed their needles. Spruce trees shed six to seven-year-old needles. "Because spruce are more dense than pine, the browning is not as noticeable," she says. The needle shed is also very noticeable in cedars.

For more information about care of trees contact the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

September 25, 1989
For immediate release

New soil moisture specialist appointed

Alberta Agriculture has a new Lethbridge based soil moisture specialist.

Allan Howard comes to the department from Olds College where he was a soils instructor for the 1988-89 academic year. He also worked for Pedocan Land Evaluation Ltd. after working with the Alberta Research Council in Edmonton for six years. At the Research Council he studied soil moisture and groundwater relationships, soil salinity and soil climate.

ALLAN HOWARD

As soils moisture specialist, Howard will monitor soil moisture conditions across the province and produce spring and fall soil moisture maps.

"I will also investigate the effectiveness of various soil moisture management techniques such as snow trapping and loosening soil to promote infiltration," he says.

Howard holds a BSc in geology and a MSc in soil physics from the University of Alberta.

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Contact: Allan Howard
381-5861

September 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Regional farm economist appointed

A former Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist is the new regional farm economist for the south central region.

Ted Darling comes to Airdrie from Red Deer where he was regional farm economist for the north central region for the last 16 months. Before that, he was a district agriculturist for 11 years serving farmers in the Red Deer, Ponoka, Vegreville and Innisfail districts.

As regional farm economist Darling will help district staff provide information to farmers about economics, farm management, financial analysis and farm business reorganization.

Darling is currently completing a masters degree in agriculture specializing in agricultural economics at the University of Alberta. He obtained a BSc in agriculture from the same university in 1968.

He was born and raised near Red Deer and has a background in mixed farming operations.

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Contact: Ted Darling
948-8524

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September 25, 1989
For immediate release

# New dryland soil salinity specialist

A respected specialist has joined Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch as the new provincial dryland soil salinity specialist.

Don Wentz, a 16 and a half year veteran with Alberta Agriculture, brings a strong background in soil conservation to his new position in Lethbridge. He has been the regional soil and crop specialist for the southern region since 1982. He was also district agriculturist and irrigation specialist with the Lethbridge district office.

DON WENTZ

In his new position, Wentz is responsible for the Dryland Salinity Investigation Service. The service assists farmers to identify dryland salinity problems and develop controls and reclamation procedures. He is also responsible for the Dugout Site Testing Service.

"Dryland salinity is a major problem. I look forward to assisting farmers preventing and controlling it. I intend to work closely with producer groups and boards," he says.

Wentz completed his MAg at the University of Alberta in 1983. He received his undergraduate degree in agriculture from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana in 1971. He hails from the Grassy Lake area in southern Alberta.

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Contact: Don Wentz
381-5153

September 25, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

1989 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS

Wainwright, Alberta farmers, Keith and Aileen Brower, are one of eight farm couples honored as 1989 Outstanding Young Farmers of Canada by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and the Canada Jaycees. The Browers will join honorees from across the nation in Calgary from October 19 through 23 for the National Recognition Program. Three of the honorees will be chosen to receive the W.R. Motherwell Award at the awards ceremony. A panel of judges will evaluate their progress in production history and growth, community involvement, management innovation and soil, energy and water conservation. This year is the tenth anniversary of the Outstanding Young Farmers program in Canada. The Browers are the Alberta-NW region representatives. For more information contact the agriculture department of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede at 261-0313.

CLEANING UP YOUR GARDEN

Once gardens have been harvested, there is still the chore of cleaning up the garden plot. Following harvest or a killing frost, plants should be pulled up and thrown away or composted. Plants with diseases or insect problems should be thrown away or burned, says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. Gardens may be spaded and the soil left in large clumps. This saves time in the spring, when it can be forked over and raked. When spading, organic matter such as peat moss, compost or well rotted manure can be added to the soil. The fall is also a good time for soil testing. "You'll know what fertilizers will be needed in the spring with a fall soil test," she says. For more information call North at 472-6043.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News Briefs (cont'd)

PLANTING BULBS FOR SPRING FLOWERS

Fall is the time to plan for one of the signs of spring. Tulip, daffodil, crocus, grape hyacinth and scilla bulbs should be bought and planted in the autumn says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. "Look for large firm bulbs with no signs of mold growth," says Pam North. Bulbs can be planted in September or as soon as they are available. They should be planted at least three weeks before the ground freezes so they they can establish roots. If they don't, they may rot in the ground. "Dig at least 30 cm down when preparing the soil. Add 2.5 to five centimetres of peat moss and incorporate it into the top 15 cm. Bulb fertilizers (4-10-8), 10-30-10 fertilizer or bonemeal can also be incorporated into the top 15 cm of the soil," she says. Most locations are suitable for bulbs, but avoid planting them near building foundations especially ones with a southern exposure. These areas warm up first in the spring and early growth could be damaged by late spring frosts. Planting depths are from the soil surface to the base of the bulb. Recommended depths are: tulips, 20 cm; daffodils, 25 cm; and, scilla, crocus and grape hyacinth at 10 to 12 cm. For more information, contact North at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at 472-6043.

NEW EQUINE VIDEOS IN FILM LIBRARY

Alberta Agriculture has added three videos produced by the American Quarter Horse Association to its Film Library. "Form to Function: The Importance of Conformation" (460-07 VT) is an 11-minute video examining the beauty, balance and symmetry of a horse. Conformation coupled with a competitive drive and willing spirit make a superior athlete. In "Western Riding--A Competitive Edge" (462-47 VT), expert horse trainer Peter Kyle, of Scottsdale, Arizona offers tips on competitive Western riding. The video runs 26 minutes. The third video is about the American Quarter Horse and offers advice on buying a horse. "For You--An American Quarter Horse" (462-48 VT) covers the steps in deciding

(Cont'd)

NEW EQUINE VIDEOS IN FILM LIBRARY (cont'd)

to purchase a horse in a 26-minute presentation. To book the videos, contact the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6 and quote the video number.

STORING GERANIUMS OVER WINTER

Geraniums can be easily overwintered indoors from one year to the next says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. "Because these annual flowers are tender, they should be dug up before the first heavy frost," says Pam North. If they can't be dug before a heavy frost, cover them. Plants should be placed close together in a box or other containers. Cover the roots with a light potting soil or a mixture of peat moss and vermiculite or peat moss and perlite. Cut back the plants severely so only branch stubs remain. Place them in a cool, dark location at a temperature of between four and seven degrees Celsius. Water the soil when they are first stored. During the winter, water them only enough to prevent the plant from shrivelling. Allow the soil to dry out completely between waterings. The plants can be brought out of storage in February and potted in individual containers in high quality potting soil and put in a sunny window, preferably a southern exposure. "If you want cuttings from the plants, bring them up in January," she notes. This is also a good method for overwintering fuchsias, she adds. For more information, contact North at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at 472-6043.



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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

October 2, 1989
For immediate release

# Dairy producers refunded over quota levies

Some Alberta dairy producers will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a refund cheque.

"About $3.3 million in over quota levy charges is going back to producers this year," says Lloyd Johnston, secretary-manager of the Alberta Dairy Control Board. The board is responsible to the Canadian Dairy Commission for administering the market share quota. Over quota levies are paid to the the federal commission on a provincial production basis.

"This year, as has happened before, a number of producers didn't deliver their full market quota. This allowed us to move the under utilized production into the hands of the over-producers and we can refund producers who have already paid over quota charges," says Johnston.

He adds refund payments will apply to up to 19.6 per cent of over quota production delivered by an individual producer. Producers will still be responsible for charges on overproduction that exceeds 19.6 per cent of their market quota, he adds. "That's up quite considerably from previous years when the refund has covered a range of between six and seven per cent."

Johnston says the refund cheques will be mailed directly to producers from the Provincial Treasurer. It's expected that they will arrive in producers' mailboxes around October 10.

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Contact: Lloyd Johnston
352-1231

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October 2, 1989
For immediate release

'Greening' summerfallow free erosion protection

August and September rains that frustrated harvest efforts are also causing "greening up" of summerfallow fields throughout much of southern Alberta.

"That green growth has made many farmers comment about 'getting behind' in their summerfallowing," says John Timmermans, Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

"Before they go out to their fields they should stop and consider whether summerfallowing is necessary. There are at least five factors to think over before cultivating summerfallow anymore this year," he says.

Most summerfallow fields don't have a serious perennial weed problem and most of the greening seen now is volunteer crop growth, he says. These volunteer crop plants will be killed by frost, he adds.

"The volunteer growth is the only protection from wind erosion that summerfallow fields have. If the growth is cultivated, protection from wind erosion will be virtually nil," says Timmermans. Last year's crop through much of southern and eastern Alberta yielded lower than normal because of drought conditions, so this year's summerfallow started out with less than even normally low levels of residue cover.

"Recent years have clearly pointed out that if serious wind erosion occurs, the summerfallow acreage suffers the most erosion. That's surely the most critical factor against further tillage at this time," he says.

Many farmers seeded cover crops on their most erodible fields in early August, he says. Rainfall since then will ensure sufficient growth to prevent erosion. "Farmers looking at summerfallow fields greening up might consider this a free cover crop," says Timmermans.

(Cont'd)

'Greening' summerfallow free erosion protection (cont'd)

Farmers who have winter annual weed problems, such as stinkweed and flixweed, should consider killing them with a low rate of 2,4-D rather than sacrificing all the soil cover to control weeds by cultivation, he adds.

For more information on soil conservation contact Timmermans in Airdrie at 948-8539.

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Contact: John Timmermans
948-8539

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October 2, 1989
For immediate release

Farm tax update for accountants and lawyers

Accountants and lawyers who advise farmers can brush up on property transfers among other tax issues at one of four seminars offered by Alberta Agriculture around the province in early November.

"This year the 'Farm Tax Update' is keying on concerns and problems related to transferring a family farm's assets. Our speakers will look at the rules and regulations, but they'll also examine options and opportunities in farm taxation and estate planning," says Merle Good, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

The four seminars will be in Medicine Hat on November 2, in Calgary on November 3, in Grand Prairie on November 6 and in Edmonton on November 7.

Dereka Thibault, a chartered accountant and senior tax manager with Thorne Ernst and Whinney in Lethbridge, and Stanley Church, a Calgary lawyer and rancher, will be the featured speakers at the seminars.

The seminar's program looks at a wide variety of issues. On the agenda are real property and expropriations, the $500,000 capital gains exemptions, estates and wills and reading the fine print in new tax rules and amendments.

Seminar participants will also get a chance to ask questions. "There's space on the registration form to write out any questions participants may have in advance, so the speakers can be more prepared," says Good.

Registration forms and more information about the Farm Tax Update are available by contacting the farm business management in Olds at 556-4240. The registration fee is $120 and includes a seminar manual, lunch and refreshments.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

October 2, 1989
For immediate release

# 1989 4-H scholarships awarded

A record number of past and present 4-H members have been awarded 4-H scholarships for the 1989-90 academic year.

Sixty-three students from across Alberta benefited from over $38,000 offered in scholarships this year. Over 200 scholarship applications were received by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch. Each one was evaluated on 4-H participation and leadership, community contributions, school activities and academic standing.

In 1989, three new scholarships were added to the program: two $500 awards from the United Farmers of Alberta; the Ken Edgerton Memorial Scholarship, a $400 award administered by the Peace Region 4-H Council; and, the Marilyn Sue Lloyd Memorial, a $100 equine award administered by the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

4-H scholarships are sponsored by corporations, individuals, the Alberta government and memorial funds.

For more information on the 4-H scholarship program in Alberta, or for information on starting a 4-H scholarship, contact Alberta Agriculture, 4-H Branch, Room 200, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or phone (403)422-4444.

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Contact: Anita Styba
422-4444

Val Runyon
422-4444

(Editors Note: Following is a complete list of 4-H scholarship winners for 1989-90. News directors and editors please note a detailed package on the winners and scholarships with pictures will be mailed soon.)

## 1989 4-H SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

| SCHOLARSHIP | | RECIPIENT | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alberta Dairymen's Association & Alberta Agriculture | $1000 each | Valerie Differenz | Bruderheim |
| | | Nancy Scheer | Strathmore |
| | | William E. Smith | Duffield |
| Alberta Treasury Branches | $1000 each | Lori Stewart | Vermilion |
| | | Elizabeth Hardy | Pincher Creek |
| | | Terri Clegg | Crooked Creek |
| | | Molly Davie | Drayton Valley |
| | | Brian King | Olds |
| | | Loretta Knowles | Byemoor |
| | | David Bunney | Ponoka |
| Alberta Wheat Pool (1st Year) | $ 300 each | Christoph Weder | Camrose |
| | | Ronda Riley | Lacombe |
| (2nd Year) | | Stacey Johnson | Rimbey |
| | | Margrit Lehmann | Cecil Lake |
| Bale Bandits | $1000 | Tracey Morey | Mayerthorpe |
| Canadian National Exhibition | $1000 | Marian Johnson | Scandia |
| Central Alberta Dairy Pool | $ 500 each | Karen Kamps | Lacombe |
| | | Wendel Korver | Rocky Mtn.House |
| Ceres International Women's Fraternity | $ 100 | Jammi Huedepohl | Stony Plain |
| Edith Taylor Memorial | $ 500 | Michelle Lemay | Grande Prairie |
| Farm Credit Corporation | $ 200 each | Cody Church | Calgary |
| | | Rita Wolters | Vermilion |
| | | Margo Lawrence | Pine Lake |
| | | Jeannette Fawcett | Consort |
| | | Jaime Schrader | Jarvie |
| | | Shelly Vanden Dungen | Vauxhall |
| | | MarieLou Rudakewich | Fairview |
| Farmhouse International Fraternity | $ 100 | Michael Spady | Alliance |
| 4-H Foundation of Alberta | $ 400 | Laura Meynberg | Marwayne |
| Hoechst Canada Bursary | $ 500 | Bradley Fournier | Wetaskiwin |
| Inga Marr Memorial | $ 300 | Lori Mattis | Airdrie |

(Cont'd)

1989 4-H scholarship recipients (cont'd)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ken Edgerton Memorial | $ 400 | Lorrie Fraser | Sexsmith |
| Lethbridge & District 4-H Beef Committee | $ 250 | Glen Murray | Warner |
| Lilydale Co-operative | $ 800 | Tracy Rainforth | Lacombe |
| Marilyn Sue Lloyd Memorial | $ 100 | Karen Reay | Red Deer |
| Norma Jean Gray | $1000 each | Wendi Anderson | Beaverlodge |
| | | Penny Lindballe | Daysland |
| | | Marrieanne Mohyluk | Barrhead |
| | | Cynthia Bevans | Cardston |
| | | Claudelle Seguin | Westlock |
| Pennington Memorial | $1009.64 each | Deneen Stoby | Gunn |
| | | Ingrid Hillert | Barrhead |
| Petro-Canada 4-H Youth Leadership Award | $1000 each | Lisa Kuhn | Drayton Valley |
| | | Christine Nordhagen | Valhalla Centre |
| | | Tye Perrett | Evansburg |
| | | Darren Hueppelsheuser | Blackfalds |
| Stanley Shulhan Memorial | $ 200 | Brent Roberts | Barrhead |
| Thomas Caryk Memorial | $ 500 | Keith Gabert | Manning |
| TX Bar (1) | $1000 | Shane Bateman | Calgary |
| TX Bar (2) | $ 500 | Carla Anderson | Taber |
| TX Bar (3) | $ 400 | Terry Elliott | Seven Persons |
| United Farmers of Alberta | $ 500 each | Karen Olechowski | Medicine Hat |
| | | Grant Clark | Erskine |
| United Grain Growers | $ 500 | Lorraine Cox | Camrose |
| Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust | $ 600 each | James Schneider | Bow Island |
| | | Laurie Edge | Cochrane |
| | | Sherry Roth | Heisler |
| | | Lori Anderson | Bowden |
| | | Catherine McGrath | Vermilion |
| | | Karen Hogg | Wembley |
| | | Teresa Burlet | Cherhill |
| Woodgrove Unifarm Local | $ 300 | Tammy Readman | Ft.Saskatchewan |
| World of Beef & Feedlot Management | $ 250 | Tom Fraser | Hussar |



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# Alberta Agriculture Appointments

## NEW SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL 4-H SPECIALIST

Andrea Church has taken the reins as regional 4-H specialist in the south central region after working as acting specialist for ten months. "I'm particularly looking forward to helping leaders implement 4-H programs in their clubs and developing strong leadership programs," she says. Church isn't a stranger to the Airdrie-based office or the area. She worked in the regional office as a summer assistant in 1985 and again in 1987-88. She was raised on a mixed farm east of Airdrie. "During my school years I was very active in community projects, particularly 4-H. I was a member of both beef and light horse clubs," she says. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1986 with a BSc in agriculture. Church can be contacted at 948-8512 in Airdrie.

## PONOKA AREA HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Jay Byer has moved from the Wetaskiwin district office to be district agriculturist in Ponoka. Byer was co-district agriculturist in Wetaskiwin for the past year. He also spent two years as a poultry specialist with Alberta Agriculture and several years working in the feed industry in central Alberta. "I'm looking forward to working with farm families, agribusinesses and farm organizations and groups in the Ponoka district," Byer says. Byer was raised on a mixed farm in the Westlock area. He attended the University of Alberta, graduating in 1980 with a BSc in agriculture. He can be contacted in Ponoka at 783-7072.

## STETTLER HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Stettler's new district agriculturist comes to the area from Manitoba where he had worked nine years in the herbicide industry. Brent Flaten worked in both sales and management with two major herbicide companies. He also kept involved in his family's grain farm in Saskatchewan. "I look forward not only to serving the needs of farm

(Cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture Appointments (cont'd)

STETTLER HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST (cont'd)
families and agribusinesses in the County of Stettler, but also in getting involved in the community," he says. He will be co-district agriculturist in Stettler with Curtis Weeks. Flaten is a 1980 BSc in agriculture graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. He majored in crop production and management. He can be contacted in Stettler at 742-7500.

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN THORHILD

Thorhild's new district home economist brings a strong 4-H background to her new position. Pat Shier was a regional 4-H specialist in north western Saskatchewan for the last year and a half. Among her responsibilities were implementing adult and youth leadership training, promoting 4-H and overseeing 11 district 4-H councils and 90 4-H clubs. "I'm looking forward to continuing my association with 4-H by working with the local councils and clubs in the Thorhild area," she says. As a district home economist, Shier will be a resource person for farm families on a variety of topics. As well, she will plan educational programs in financial management, food and nutrition, marketing Alberta food products and leadership development. Shier grew up on a grain farm near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She attended the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon earning a bachelor of science hom economics degree in 1986. She can be contacted at 398-3993 in Thorhild.

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN RIMBEY

Rimbey's new district agriculturist has returned closer to his roots in west central Alberta after working with Alberta Agriculture in southern Alberta. Ron Koots grew up on a mixed farm in the Eckville area south of Rimbey. After graduating with a BSc in agriculture from University of Alberta in 1976, he trained as a district agriculturist in

(Cont'd)

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN RIMBEY (cont'd)

Lethbridge. He spent three years in Warner and five years as Drumheller's district agriculturist. "I'm looking forward to meeting and working with farmers in the Rimbey area. As their district agriculturist I hope to be a source of unbiased information about existing and new technologies and practices. I'm also very interested in marketing," he says. Beef and forage production and working with the Grey Wooded Forage Association will be some of his main responsibilities. Koots can be contacted in Rimbey at 843-2201.

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST FOR CALGARY

Brenda Ralston is the new district agriculturist in the Calgary district office. Most recently Ralston was district agriculturist in Ponoka for ten months covering an educational leave. She was also district agriculturist in Wetaskiwin for a year. Ralston first joined Alberta Agriculture in 1986 shortly after earning a BSc in agriculture from the University of Alberta. She worked as a livestock production technologist and then as a regional soil technician in the south central region. "I'm looking forward to being back in the Calgary area and helping the farming community with farming technology," she says. Ralston was raised near Balzac on a mixed cattle and grain farm. She can be contacted in Calgary at 297-6281.

BRENDA RALSTON

AIRDRIE HAS NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST

Kathy Lowther has taken over as the district home economist serving the Airdrie area and the Municipal Districts of Rockyview and Big Horn. Lowther was the Vulcan district home economist for five years. She went to Vulcan after covering a maternity leave in the Warner district office. She also spent the summer of 1983 as an assistant district home economist in Stettler. "As an extension agent for farm and ranch

(Cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture Appointments (cont'd)

AIRDRIE HAS NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST (cont'd)
families, I'll help them make well informed decisions in areas ranging from financial management to leadership skills and from Alberta product promotion to protective clothing while using pesticides," she says.
Lowther is a 1984 graduate of the University of Alberta with a BSc in home economics. She grew up north of Fort Saskatchewan where her family raised Appaloosas. She can be contacted in Airdrie at 948-8551.

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October 2, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

ANIMAL HEALTH WEEK

The fifth annual national Animal Health Week will run from October 16-22 in 1989. The awareness week celebrates the role animals play in our lives and the important of good animal health. It has become an established part of the veterinary profession's public education efforts through the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. For more information in Alberta, contact Dr. Ted Purcell, 5051-130 Avenue, Edmonton, T5A 3L7 or call 476-7558.

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL CONGRESS AND TRADE SHOW

October 15 is the early bird registration deadline for the Alberta Horticultural Congress. The congress will be at the Coast Terrace Inn in Edmonton November 2 through 4. The trade show will be at the Convention Inn South at the same time. Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley will officially open the congress. Congress sessions will cover a broad range of topics including production, pests, packaging and marketing. Four industry tours are available to registrants on a first come first served basis. Registration includes admission to the all technical sessions and the trade show, as well as breakfasts, luncheons and coffee breaks. The Alberta Horticultural Congress and Trade Show is organized by five member organizations: the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, the Fruit Growers Society of Alberta, the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board and Flowers Canada. For more information and registration forms contact congress co-ordinator, Simone Demers Collins, at 304, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call 427-7366.

ALBERTA WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE CONVENTION

Delegates at the 1989 Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture convention will explore science, politics, environment and finance during a two-day convention November 16 and 17 in Calgary. The

(Cont'd)

ALBERTA WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE CONVENTION (cont'd)
organization's annual meeting starts activities on the first day. The evening banquet features Preston Manning. Keynote speaker Sister Thomas Moore of Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, will discuss farmers as policy makers. She is the author of "In Pursuit of Agri Power". Jim Gray, executive vice-president of Canadian Hunter Exploration will talk about biotechnology and science centres in Alberta. Agriculture and the Alberta Conservation Strategy is Aniko Szojka's topic. The final session is a two hour farmers and finances workshop with Thomas McNabb of Lethbridge. The former banker will discuss: understanding what you've signed; women and banking; surviving financial difficulties; security documents and the Bank Act; and, how to negotiate. Couples are encouraged to attend. Registration is $90 for a couple and $60 for a single registration. For more information about the program, contact Elaine Degg in Langdon at 936-5991. For conference brochures and registration information, call the Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture office at 646-2059 in Nanton.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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October 9, 1989

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

# Cattle market reports go high tech

Alberta cattle producers can now dial one of 16 regional numbers to receive Alberta Cattle Commission's daily market report.

"The 16 regional numbers have replaced the former toll-free 1-800 number producers were using. One of the reasons for the change was to cut down costs, but the new remote messaging system also has the potential to provide even more information to producers," says Gordon Mitchell, of the Alberta Cattle Commission.

The message system operates in much the same way as talking yellow pages and Canadian Airlines International and Brewster Bus Lines schedules. Callers with touch tone telephones call the number, listen to instructions and by pressing a number on their telephone can get a specific message.

Touch tone phones aren't necessary to access the cattle market information. If producers don't have a touch tone telephone, they can still get cattle market reports by giving a voice response to listed choices.

"With an almost unlimited capacity for messages, there is the potential to put much more than cattle market information on the system. The Cattle Commission could also have information on zone meetings and Alberta Agriculture could have have messages about meetings and events in specific areas," says David Walker, of Alberta Agriculture.

Alberta Agriculture is one of the partners in the project and the hardware for the systems will be located in Alberta Agriculture offices.

The system locations and telephone numbers are: Brooks, 362-4137; Lethbridge, 320-9639; Calgary, 295-9044; Olds, 556-6066; Red Deer, 341-4780; Camrose, 672-9707; Coronation, 578-3260; Edmonton, 436-7608; Westlock, 349-6409; Medicine Hat, 529-6681; Claresholm, 625-3557; Ponoka, 783-5150; Vermilion, 853-2810; Grande Prairie, 538-1322; Pincher Creek, 627-5688; and, Fairview, 835-3333.

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Contact: David Walker
427-7132

Gordon Mitchell
275-4400

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

# Pasteurization program ensures quality

Three years ago Alberta Agriculture's dairy processing branch introduced a pasteurization program to inspect and test all pasteurizing units in the province and to license their operators.

Today, the program's two phases are virtually complete says Ken Waldon, head of the dairy processing branch. As a result, the province is a leader in its approach to pasteurizing milk.

"The purpose of the program is to ensure that the pasteurizers are meeting the minimum requirements, that controls and fail-safe features are operating properly and that pasteurization units are under the control of qualified plant personnel.

"As a result, consumers are assured that their dairy products have been properly pasteurized and any pathogenic bacteria that may have been in the raw product have been destroyed," says Waldon.

Alberta is the only province in Canada requiring pasteurizer operators to be licensed, he adds. Alberta is also one of three provinces actively involved in a pasteurizer inspection program, although another province does have a program requiring certification of the units by the private sector, he says.

In the first phase of the program all high temperature short time (HTST) and vat pasteurizer units were thoroughly inspected and tested. "Virtually all of the province's units have been approved. Completion dates have been established for the remaining units and all are expected to be approved by the end of the year," says Waldon.

Annual inspection will be continued to ensure each unit still operates within the test requirements, he says.

The second part of the program was teaching, examining and licensing pasteurizer operators. Robert Pulyk, provincial dairy processing specialist, taught the courses. His teaching guide was a pasteurizer operator manual already written by the branch.

(Cont'd)

Pasteurization program ensures quality (cont'd)

Nine courses sponsored by the Alberta Dairymen's Association were held across the province. A total of 155 dairy plant employees attended the two and a half day courses in Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, Airdrie and Lethbridge. They wrote examinations for either a vat or HTST license.

"The pass mark is 75 per cent and 70 per cent of the people who took the courses obtained that mark. Anyone who didn't, was given the opportunity to rewrite," says Waldon.

"The license is a requirement. We will be offering more courses for new operators and people with temporary licenses. Two courses have been planned for 1990. Future courses will be held based on need and geographic location of the applicants," he adds.

"Alberta's dairy industry should be congratulated for the way it has responded to the program. The industry has upgraded the pasteurizers and has strongly supported licensing pasteurizer operators," says Waldon.

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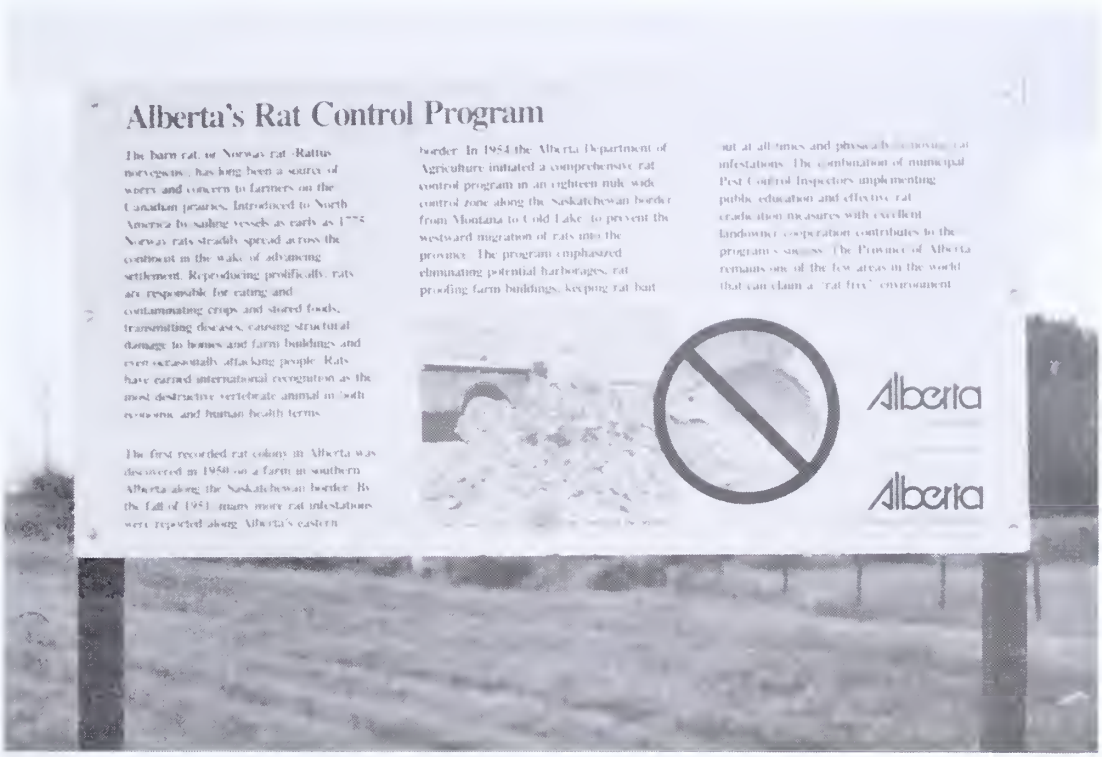
Contact: Ken Waldon
352-1220

Robert Pulyk
352-1220

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

# Highway sign tells about rat control




The first roadside sign describing Alberta's rat control program was erected outside of Lloydminster this year.

Travellers coming into Alberta on the Yellowhead highway now have a visible reminder that they are entering a "rat free" province.

This spring a roadside sign telling about the Alberta rat control program was erected outside Lloydminster on Highway 16. Alberta Agriculture has selected a number of major highways along the province's eastern border as sites for the signs. They will be part of the education element of the rat control campaign.

"This sign is the first of four or five planned for highways coming into Alberta. They will inform newcomers to Alberta, as well as regular travellers, about the provincial-municipal rat control program," says John Bourne, northern regional problem wildlife specialist.

(Cont'd)

Highway sign tells about rat control (cont'd)

The roadside sign--jointly erected by Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Culture and Multiculturism and the County of Vermilion River--describes the history of rat control in Alberta and informs passersby of the current program.

"Most Albertans know Alberta is a rat free province. They probably don't understand how significant that is because rats are one of the most destructive creatures known to man," says Bourne.

Soon after the first report of Norway rats in Alberta was confirmed in the early 1950s, a long term rat control strategy was put in place. Over the last 38 years Alberta has successfully stemmed the westward migration of the Norway rat through the joint efforts of Alberta Agriculture and municipalities along the province's eastern border.

Norway rats destroy and contaminate food and spread organisms responsible for food poisoning, hepatitis, tularemea and other diseases. They can weaken building foundations, sewer and water lines and city streets by tunneling and can also weaken and deface buildings by gnawing through floors, walls, insulation and supporting structures.

These rats aren't native to North America. They were introduced to the east coast around 1775 and slowly moved westward.

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Contact: John Bourne
853-8109

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

Dairy information series go across province in November

Dairy producers can take part in two different extension seminars offered by Alberta Agriculture at various locations around the province in November.

"The dairy extension series has two topics--managing the high producing dry cow, and reproduction and the high producing cow," says Brian Rhiness, provincial dairy production specialist.

Dr. Lee Kilmer is the featured speaker in the first series. Kilmer, who grew up on a Pennsylvania dairy farm and worked as a county agricultural agent, is currently a member of the Iowa State University extension staff. His work focuses on dairy cattle nutrition, particularly on feeding and managing the high production cow.

"Through his wide range of experiences Dr. Kilmer will be able to add new insights to a critical time--the dry period--for the high producing cow," says Rhiness.

A producer panel will discuss using the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) program and its benefits. Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Dairy Herd Improvement Services (ADHIS) will discuss new services and software available for DHI. The first series will also have an update on nocardia mastitis, a new problem facing Alberta dairy producers.

Series one will be at the Brooks Heritage Inn on November 6, at Olds College November 7, at the Leduc's Elks Hall November 8, the Westlock Inn on November 9 and windup in Vegreville at the Elks Hall on November 10.

The second series deals with reproduction and the high producing cow. Dr. Dave Chalack, of Alta Genetics, will outline a practical approach to reproduction management of the high producing cow. Using embryos in herd improvement is the subject of Doug Blair, president of Western Breeders. A panel discussion on bull proofs is also part of the series.

(Cont'd)

Dairy information series go across province in November (cont'd)

This series will be in Lethbridge at Sven Erickson's Restaurant on November 20, in Olds on November 21, Leduc on November 22 and Westlock on November 23.

Also sponsoring the series are ADHIS, Western Breeders, Upjohn, Quality Feeds, Champion Feeds, Calmar Feed Mill, Shur-Gain Canada and MSDAGVET.

For more information on the series contact an Alberta Agriculture district office or Brian Rhiness in Wetaskiwin at 352-1223.

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Contact: Brian Rhiness
352-1223

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

# How-tos in marketing at seminar

Showing producers and agribusinesses how they can market and not just sell their products is the aim of a two-day seminar in Camrose November 16 and 17.

"If you are concerned about marketing the products you've raised in 1989 for the greatest net return to you over the next 12 to 18 months, then the "Target your Market" seminar will help you make marketing decisions," says George Rock, Camrose co-district agriculturist.

Seminar speakers will discuss innovative marketing and new or different marketing avenues during the seminar. Each day will begin with a general opening session, then participants can attend six of 12 select-a-sessions on a variety of topics. Commodities discussed will include wheat, oats, barley, canola, feeder cattle, slaughter cattle, pork and peas and forages. There will also be a session on market information services and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Some time will be spent on future directions in marketing, but this isn't a long term outlook conference. The emphasis is on the short term," says Rock.

Richard Klassen of the Canadian Wheat Board is one of the featured speakers. Other speakers include several Alberta Agriculture market analysts and marketing specialists. Alberta Grain Commission chairman Ken Beswick will close the seminar.

Registration for the full conference is $50 including lunches and the banquet. Single day fees are $25. All activities are at the Norsemen Motor Inn in Camrose.

"Target your Market" is jointly sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Camrose Regional Exhibition. For more information about the seminar, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Camrose at 679-1210.

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Contact: George Rock
679-1210

David Samm
679-1210

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October 9, 1989
For immediate release

# Hort congress shows industry diversity

As many as 650 delegates representing Alberta's diverse horticulture industry are expected to attend the second annual Alberta Horticultural Congress in Edmonton November 2 to 4.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley is scheduled to open the congress, beginning the event that includes more than 35 seminars and workshops on all aspects of horticultural production.

Among the topics are: grower innovations, packaging regulations, greenhouse economics, growing vegetables in rockwood, poinsettias for the '90s, advertising and promotion and strawberries in the chinook belt. Speakers from California, Illinois, Saskatchewan, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta will be featured.

Internationally known management consultant, Herb Mitchell, will provide the congress keynote address. "Mr. Mitchell will attempt to motivate congress participants to be more sensitive in planning the direction of both their personal and business growth," says Simone Demers Collins, the congress co-ordinator.

Along with the technical sessions, the congress will also host a major industry trade show with representatives from nearly 80 manufacturers, suppliers and organizations.

Demers Collins says response from last year's event was very positive. "There was tremendous support from the industry for this type of event. Continued support will make for continued success."

Five associations sponsor the congress: the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board, the Fruit Growers Society of Alberta and Flowers Canada (Alberta Region). The organizations have also planned their own business meetings during the congress.

Four tours have also been arranged for November 4 as part of Congress activities. Delegates will be able to visit local greenhouses, florists, wholesalers and processors. There is limited space available on a first-come first-served basis. Tours are an additional $10.

(Cont'd)

"On the lighter side, a banquet and fun casino have been planned on the Friday evening and a dinner and dance on Saturday," says Demers Collins.

Congress seminars will be at the Coast Terrace Inn and the trade show at the Convention Inn South.

For more information or registration forms, contact Demers Collins at 304, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427-7366.

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Contact: Simone Demers Collins
427-7366

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

# Alberta Agriculture appointments

## NEW REGIONAL HOME ECONOMIST IN THE PEACE

A veteran of extension home economics in Manitoba is the new Peace regional home economist. Yvonne Grabowsky was most recently clothing and textiles specialist with Manitoba Agriculture. She returned to extension work in 1988 after taking time to raise a family. She started working with Manitoba Agriculture in 1969 after her graduation from the University of Manitoba. She was a home economist in Morris and St. Pierre, provincial 4-H specialist, clothing and textiles specialist and also worked for the department of Health and Social Development. "I'm very excited to be part of the Alberta Agriculture team. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with both the clients and Alberta Agriculture staff in the Peace region," she says. She can be contacted in Fairview at 835-2295.

YVONNE GRABOWSKY

## NEW ASSISTANT IN FARMERS ADVOCATE OFFICE

A former RCMP officer is the newest member of Alberta Agriculture's Farmers Advocate Office. Cliff Munroe came to Alberta in 1965 when he was stationed in Wetaskiwin. He was also stationed in Stettler, Olds and Edmonton. As division crime prevention co-ordinator, he was involved with setting up and monitoring Rural Crime Watch programs throughout the province. Munroe also holds a certificate in personnel administration from the University of Alberta. In his new position he will investigate and mediate farmer concerns. Munroe was born in Rothesay, New Brunswick. He can be contacted in Edmonton at 427-2433.

CLIFF MUNROE

October 9, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Innovative marketing is the theme for the 1989 Alberta Feed Industry Conference November 7 and 8 in Red Deer. Conference speakers will address a variety of topics about marketing and trade in the future. International speakers are a new feature of this year's event. Michael Walker, director of the Fraser Institute, will open the conference by looking at what's ahead for free trade in food commodities. David Sowney, agricultural marketing professor from Purdue University in Indiana, will discuss innovative marketing concepts. Other topics on the agenda are: concepts of value added marketing, the global trading environment of red meat, beef marketing in Alberta and hormones and natural beef. Banquet speaker is cowboy humorist Baxter Black. The conference is sponsored by the Canadian Feed Industry Association (Alberta Division), the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Alberta Agriculture and the faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at University of Alberta. Registration and other information is available by contacting the CFIA at 459-3981.

CONSERVATION 2000 PRODUCER MEETING IN LETHBRIDGE

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan is among the speakers at an Alberta Wheat Pool Conservation 2000 producer meeting in Lethbridge on November 8. Senator Herb Sparrow, noted conservationist and author of the Senate task force report "Soils at Risk", will be the featured speaker. Pool region six manager, Tom Howe will update the Conservation 2000 program. For more information contact Jim Hahn, regional co-ordinator, at 328-5005 in Lethbridge.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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October 16, 1989

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
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October 16, 1989
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Isley and Paszkowksi announce sugar price reduction plan for beekeepers

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Walter Paszkowski, Smoky River MLA and chairman of the Alberta Beekeeping Industry Advisory Committee, have announced the implementation of the Alberta Sugar Price Reduction Program for Beekeepers.

The Alberta government is committing $500,000 to offset the cost of sugar purchased by beekeepers for overwintering honey bee stock. The province will provide rebates of $3 for every 40 kilograms of sugar, or equivalent, purchased as feedstock for overwintering. Grant payments will cover sugar purchases made between August 1, 1989 and May 31, 1990.

The commercial beekeeping industry in Alberta has experienced economic difficulties during the last four years. Persistent low honey prices and escalating production costs have jeopardized the economic viability of many beekeeping operations. During the past two years, producers have attempted to increase their overwintering self-sufficiency following closure of the Canada-United States border to the importation of honey bee stock.

"Expanded overwintering has increased production costs for many Alberta beekeepers. The Alberta Sugar Price Reduction Program will help to offset sugar expenditures, which are a major cash cost in overwintering," says Isley.

"The immediate concern is the recent price increase of sugar by approximately 25 per cent over last year. This may jeopardize the ability of beekeepers to overwinter colonies needed for next year's honey production. The implementation of this program will assist Alberta beekeepers to maintain bee stock for production in 1990," says Paszkowski.

(Cont'd)

Isley and Paszkowski announce sugar price reduction plan for beekeepers (cont'd)

"This initiative is a result of a recommendation by the Alberta Beekeeping Industry Advisory Committee. This committee, comprised of beekeepers from across Alberta as well as Don Tannas, Highwood MLA, was formed for the purpose of reviewing the various problems which face the industry and recommending strategies and actions to address industry-related concerns," says Isley.

The Alberta Beekeeping Industry Advisory Committee will continue to meet with Alberta beekeepers throughout the winter to discuss long-term prospects for the industry.

Details of the sugar price reduction program and application forms are currently being developed. They will be distributed to registered beekeepers in late October.

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Contact: Walter Paszkowski
MLA, Smoky River
427-1867

Ken Moholitny
Centralized program support
422-9167

Brad Klak
Executive assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

McClellan announces changes to private irrigation assistance program

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan has announced amendments to the Alberta Private Irrigation Development Assistance Program (APIDA) funding formula.

The changes have been made in recognition of the high costs incurred by private irrigators in developing their water diversion and conveyance works and in managing their water applications.

Following an Irrigation Caucus review of the early stages of program implementation, the APIDA contribution toward eligible system development costs has been increased from $100 per acre to $150 per acre. This increased funding remains subject to the originally stipulated program maximum: provincial contributions to any one project will not exceed 50 per cent of the total eligible project costs, or $30,000, whichever is least.

McClellan says she is pleased to note, based on the applications received to date, that the vast majority of applicants should receive increased funding. "I think this step goes a long way in enhancing Alberta Agriculture's assistance to private irrigation development."

In view of the need to encourage prudent management of irrigation water supplies, program applicants are required to incorporate equipment called "totalizing flow meters" in their diversion and conveyance works. This equipment is a management tool that allows the irrigator to more accurately measure his water use and system performance. In consideration of the additional capital cost involved in installing the metering equipment, a special funding contribution has been developed in the program. APIDA will reimburse producers for up to 75 per cent of eligible metering equipment costs, provided that the total program contribution to any one irrigation project doesn't exceed the $30,000 maximum.

(Cont'd)

McClellan announces changes to private irrigation assistance program (cont'd)

Eligible APIDA applicants are irrigators who obtain their water from sources outside the works of the organized irrigation districts, under authority of an Interim Water License issued by Alberta Environment. Only project works constructed after December 9, 1988, with pre-construction approval from Alberta Agriculture's irrigation branch, are eligible for consideration.

"I am confident these change to the Alberta Private Irrigation Development Assistance program will allow better use of existing funding, while at the same time responding to the need to conserve our precious water resources," says McClellan.

Application forms for the APIDA program are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices across the province. Assistance in completing the forms may be obtained through any one of Alberta's eight provincial irrigation branch offices.

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Contact: Louise Riopel
Executive assistant
to the Minister
422-9156

Wally Chinn
Head, irrigation
development section
381-5864

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

# Provincial harvest virtually complete

About 95 per cent of combining was completed across the province by the Thanksgiving weekend signalling near completion of another harvest season.

"Three weeks of good weather in late September and early October allowed farmers in most parts of the province to finish their harvesting operations by Thanksgiving," says Michelle Timko, Alberta Agriculture's crop statistician.

The exceptions are in some areas west of Edmonton and in the Peace region where fields remain too wet for equipment. "Some farmers in those wet areas may have to wait until the ground freezes before they can get at their crops," she says.

At the beginning of the month, harvest was 85 per cent complete across the province. That was well ahead of the five-year average of 62 per cent complete. Farmers in the southeast had finished, while farmers west of Edmonton in the southern Peace were still waiting to get into their wet fields. The first snowfall of the year, September 30 and October 1, coupled with rain temporarily delayed harvest in some areas.

Timko says yields and grades are lower than initially anticipated. "In general, cereal yields are estimated at average, but grades are generally poor. There also appears to be little malt quality barley. Cereal bushel weights are light too, particularly for barley," she says.

Better news is that fall field work and winter crop seeding is well under way. "Reports are that emerged winter crops look excellent," Timko adds.

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Contact: Michelle Timko
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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

# Harvest weather good and bad

September weather finally gave Alberta farmers a chance to catch up on harvesting their crops says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"There were--depending on the location in Alberta--around eight to 11 days with rain in September, compared to around 16 to 20 days with rain in August. The drier conditions in September were a real relief for farmers trying to combine," says Peter Dzikowski.

September did start off by continuing the August trend of frequent, almost daily showers. "Finally, in the second week, clearing and drier conditions returned, allowing Alberta farmers to catch up on harvesting operations," he says.

September precipitation, averaged for the province, was about 37 mm. August's average was 85 mm. Most Alberta locations received between 25 and 50 mm precipitation in September. Grande Prairie was the wettest spot in Alberta reporting 73.4 mm of precipitation last month. That's 196 per cent of the long term average for that month, Dzikowski notes. Campsie, northwest of Edmonton, was the driest spot. It reported 11.4 mm of precipitation, 31 per cent of its long term average for September.

Most of central Alberta and the southern Peace region reported precipitation amounts above the long term average for the period of May 1 to September 30 says Dzikowski. "Most locations in central Alberta recorded around 350 mm of precipitation, which is about 20 per cent above the seasonal long term average," he says.

Whitecourt was the wettest place in the province for that time period recording 629 mm of precipitation, 170 per cent of the five month's long term average. The driest location in the province was Gleichen, east of Calgary. It recorded 200 mm, 78 per cent of its long term May through September average.

(Cont'd)

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Harvest weather good and bad (cont'd)

"The growing season generally provided both ample and timely rainfall for crop growth this year. Although there were dry periods in July and a pretty wet August that delayed harvest and caused crop quality losses, the 1989 growing season produced some above average yields," Dzikowski says.

There were heavy frosts in September with minimums as low as -10 degrees Celsius in some areas, and -5 to -7 degrees Celsius temperatures were reported at many locations during the month. "However, the average temperature for September was about 0.5 degrees warmer than the long term average for the month," he says.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
427-4028

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

# Test feeds for optimum livestock performance

Knowing feed quality is particularly important to livestock producers this year because poor harvesting conditions have resulted in reduced feed quality says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"By assessing the quality of the feed they have for their livestock, producers can make adjustments so their stock gets the right rations to withstand winter and to be in good condition," says Dale Engstrom, an animal nutrition specialist.

Feed quality affects the animal's nourishment. Adequate nourishment helps animals resist disease and metabolic disorders. For livestock producers, adequate nourishment also means making a profit. "With well balanced rations, producers can get the performance level from their herd that will get them the maximum profit," he says.

"Feed testing is an investment in the health and productivity of your livestock and in the profit of your operation. But it's only a good investment if you take a representative sample and then thoroughly understand the results you get," he adds.

A key part of a good sample is getting a truly representative sample of the entire lot of feed being evaluated. At least 20 sub-samples should be combined to make up the sample sent to a feed testing laboratory.

"If you don't provide the lab with an accurate, representative sample you are wasting your time and money. Besides, misleading information obtained from improperly sampled feed is probably worse than no information," Engstrom says.

Grab samples of grain are acceptable as long as weed seeds or light kernels are not lost in the process, but using a grain probe is probably better for stored grain, he says. Grab samples of chopped forage or silage are also acceptable. Baled forage should never be sampled without using a core sampler. Core samplers are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

(Cont'd)

Test feeds for optimum livestock performance (cont'd)

Feed testing services are available at several locations around the province. The department's Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory can be contacted at 9th floor, O.S. Longman building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, or call 436-9150 or 427-8906. Six private laboratories also can do feed testing. They are: Crossfield Laboratories Ltd., P.O. Bag 1000, Crossfield, T0M 0S0 or call 946-4364 or toll-free 1-800-661-8373; Lakeside Research, Box 800, Brooks, T0J 0J0, 362-3326; NIRA Agri-Food Research Labs Inc., 7808-121 Avenue, Edmonton, T5B 4T3; Northwest Soil Research Ltd., 9938-67 Avenue, Edmonton, T6E 0P5, 438-5522 or Box 1900, Lethbridge, T1J 4K5, 329-9266; and, Sandberg Laboratories, Box 33, 3510-6 Avenue North, Lethbridge, T1J 3Y3 or call 328-1133.

For more information about testing feed and grain quality, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or regional livestock specialist.

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
436-9150

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

# Prepare hamburger safely

Summer barbecues may have ended for 1989, but the caution backyard chefs used to thoroughly cook their meats shouldn't stop when they move back into their kitchens says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Following standard and common sense safety procedures can prevent the type of food poisoning commonly referred to as 'hamburger disease' or 'barbecue syndrome'," says Aileen Whitmore, provincial food and nutrition specialist.

Under-cooked meat is the prime culprit in the disease caused most commonly by E coli bacteria. The bacteria produces a poison or toxin that damages the lining of the intestine and results in hemorrhagic colitis. Most people recover from the infection within two weeks. In a very small number of cases, the E coli toxin results in a serious, sometimes fatal complication, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This illness affects kidneys and blood and is especially dangerous to young children and the elderly.

"As with most bacterial contamination of meat, it is almost exclusively the surfaces of raw meat that may harbor the bacteria," says Whitmore. "Through the grinding process surface contaminants spread throughout uncooked ground meat--that makes hamburger a likely candidate for the bacteria."

Cooking, pasteurization and safe food preparation destroys the E coli bacteria, so one of the important ways to avoid the disease is by cooking all meats thoroughly. "Thorough cooking of hamburgers means the center of hamburger patties are brown and juices are clear," she says.

Whitmore has several preparation and serving tips to prevent food poisoning. "Meats should be refrigerated or frozen as soon as possible after they are purchased. Frozen meats should be thawed in the refrigerator, not at room temperature.

(Cont'd)

Prepare hamburger safely (cont'd)

"Cooks should wash their hands thoroughly before preparing food and after handling raw meats. Raw hamburger patties, and other meats, should be prepared quickly, cooked right away or put in the refrigerator. Raw meats shouldn't be allowed to sit at room temperature. All utensils, cutting boards and counters must be washed with hot soapy water to prevent bacteria in raw meat from contacting other foods.

"Cooked meats should be placed on clean plates. Don't re-use utensils, plates or platters that have been in contact with raw meats. Cooked meats should be served immediately or kept hot. They shouldn't sit at room temperature. Leftover meats should be refrigerated as soon as possible after the meat is cooked. All leftovers should be thoroughly reheated," she says.

Individuals with symptoms of hamburger disease should consult their physician. Symptoms include severe stomach cramps and bloody diarrhea two to eight days after eating contaminated food. Dehydration is common due to the loss of fluids. Associated fevers are usually mild. The illness usually lasts seven to ten days.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

Three ASBs receive conservation project funding

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) in the Counties of Strathcona and St. Paul and the Municipal District of Westlock have recently received project funding from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

"All of the projects promote improved soil and water conservation and will demonstrate different ways of achieving that goal," says Carol Bettac, CARTT area B co-ordinator. Area B, one of three administrative areas, includes the north central, north east and north west agriculture regions running from Red Deer north to the Barrhead/Athabasca/Lac La Biche districts and from the Saskatchewan border west to the foothills.

"The Strathcona ASB will demonstrate the effect of standing stubble on soil moisture, erosion control and crop yield," she says.

A field will be split into two. One half will be tilled conventionally in the fall. Stubble, to retain soil moisture and reduce erosion, will be left standing on the second half. Soil moisture samples will be taken after harvest and again in the spring. Crop residue and soil cover will be assessed after each tillage operation. Yield data will be collected after harvesting crops.

"A program priority in the soil conservation efforts of the M.D. of Westlock is establishing field shelterbelts. Two conservation demonstration projects in the municipality will use shelterbelts," says Bettac.

Trees will be planted at two project sites. Wind speed, erosion potential and the effect on soil moisture and crop yield will be monitored over a number of years. Chemical weed control using various rates of Treflan application will be assessed at one of the sites.

Increasing soil conservation awareness and promoting management practices that reduce soil degradation is the aim of the County of St. Paul's reduced tillage in continuous cropping demonstration.

(Cont'd)

Three ASBs receive conservation project funding (cont'd)

Reduced tillage increases crop residue left on the soil's surface and decreases erosion potential. This demonstration project will split a field into four different tillage treatment plots. One plot will be a control with conventional fall and spring tillage, herbicide and fertilizer applications.

The second plot will be sprayed with Roundup in the fall instead of being tilled. Fertilizer and herbicide (Avadex) will be broadcast in the spring, then the field will be cultivated once and seeded. The third plot will be cultivated using ultra sweep low crown shovels and harrows. The last plot will be cultivated the same way, but with the harrows removed.

"Ultra sweep low crown shovels minimize the surface disturbance and leave increased amounts of crop residue on the soil surface to decrease erosion," says Bettac.

All four plots will be seeded to barley in 1991. Crop residue and soil cover, weed control, soil moisture and crop yields will be monitored on all four plots. The project will be repeated for three years.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
853-8109

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

Sheep symposium registration deadline October 31

Producers should reserve a spot quickly if they want to take part in the 1989 Alberta Sheep Symposium says Alberta Agriculture's sheep specialist.

"The registration deadline for this year's symposium is October 31. You can guarantee your place by reserving your room at the Kananaskis Lodge by that date," says Wray Whitmore. The three-day symposium runs from November 30 through December 2.

"The program has been prepared in response to producers' requests for information about the sheep industry. We feel the broad range of subjects covered during the symposium will make it the best ever," he says.

Symposium topics include: animal behavior, disease management, guard animals, marketing, finance, grading, range management and a review of new production technology. Speakers are recognized authorities in their respective fields in both Canada and the United States.

"Participants will also be able to enjoy the always entertaining and informative Grant MacEwan who will be the featured speaker at the Friday evening banquet," says Whitmore.

The symposium is co-sponsored by the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association and Alberta Agriculture. For registration or other information about the symposium, contact Whitmore at 427-5083.

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Contact: Wray Whitmore
427-5083

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

Symposium kicks off oats new beginning

Alberta oat producers can learn more about how to grow and market their crop at a two-day symposium organized by the fledgling Oat Producers Association of Alberta November 22 and 23 in Edmonton.

"The symposium, "Oats: A New Beginning", will kick off our association's activities, but it's also an opportunity to share and discuss the direction of the oat industry," says Peter Kirylchuk, president of the association.

Oat producers, processors, commodity organization representatives and representatives of the grain trade are invited to attend the symposium. "Anyone with an interest in getting up-to-date with production, research and marketing of oats should attend," he says.

Marketing will be the focus of the symposium. "The second day will be almost entirely devoted to different aspects of marketing," Kirylchuk notes. An overview of marketing options and a market outlook panel are scheduled for the morning. The panel features Si Matthies, of General Mills in Minneapolis, along with Charlie Pearson, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, and Randy Cook, of Alberta Wheat Pool. In the afternoon, speakers will discuss marketing requirements and opportunities in both domestic and export markets.

The symposium will open with a three-member producer panel describing how they produce and market their oats. Also during the first day is a look at current and future oat varieties, a research panel on directions in oat research and a discussion about oat bran.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley will be the featured luncheon speaker November 23. Dick Dawson, senior vice-president of Cargill, will be the banquet speaker.

For registration information contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or the Oat Producers Association of Alberta at 304, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6, 427-7366.

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Contact: Peter Kirylchuk
623-7732

Emile deMilliano
427-7366

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

Researchers and producers meet at Farming for the Future Conference

Researchers and producers will focus on improving agricultural productivity and efficiency in the 1990's at the fourth Farming for the Future conference in Lethbridge next March.

"The conference's purpose is to present research results that help reduce production costs, improve production efficiency, enhance product quality, increase the ability of Alberta farmers to compete effectively in the world marketplace, conserve natural resources and ensure the sustainability of agricultural production," says conference co-ordinator Sharon Abbott.

Researchers will present papers at morning and afternoon sessions on March 15. The concurrent sessions will look at animal, crop, and irrigation and soil conservation research. Each session allows speakers adequate time to develop their topic and answer questions from participants.

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan will be the keynote speaker at the closing banquet on March 15.

Conference activities begin on March 14 with evening registration and a reception. The $35 registration fee includes the sessions, reception, luncheon, banquet, coffee breaks and a binder with all the papers presented during the conference.

Brochures with registration forms will be available in early January. For more information about the conference, contact Abbott at Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956,

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Contact: Sharon Abbott
427-1956

October 16, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

COUNTRY CARING THEME AT PEACE FARM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Farm women from the Peace region can participate at a two day conference in Fairview on November 16 and 17. Eloise Murray, dean of the University of Alberta's home economics faculty, will open the conference with a look at country women of the world. Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan will give the closing address on "gaining visibility". Conference topics all reflect the conference theme of "country caring". Select-a-session subjects include: assertiveness training, crisis resources in the Peace, rural day care, computers on the farm, a medical perspective of pesticides, talking to kids about sexuality, many faces of sustainable agriculture, family communications, complaining with clout, marketing home based businesses, stress/depression/anger, being prepared to be on your own, family violence's ripple effect in the community, hydroponics and a discussion of farm womens' worth. The conference is at Fairview College. The registration deadline is November 10. Registration and other information is available from Peace region district home economists.

SEED TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

Olds College is offering a three-day seed technology workshop November 14 through 16. The workshop takes a look at some of the latest technical information in the industry as well as giving participants a chance to discuss their expertise and concerns. On the topic agenda are: cleaning with gravities, weeds and weed control, weeds and their seeds, a blackleg of canola disease update, a seed technology programs for the future, what the seed industry should know about pesticide labels and label restrictions, how a seed variety is developed, wind and screen precleaning machines, European seed cleaning equipment and an authorized establishments 1989 update. Two tours are part of the workshop program. The first goes to Kaun Seed Farms to look at state of the art seed cleaning and treating facilities. The other is an informal

(Cont'd)

SEED TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP (cont'd)

tour of Graham Seeds Farms, a pedigreed seed farm. A tour of Olds College facilities is optional. Final registration deadline is October 31. For more information contact Jennifer O'Halloran, Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

TREE CLIMBING WORKSHOP FOR ARBORISTS

Two four-day hands on intensive tree climbing workshops for arborists are being conducted in Edmonton and Calgary. The Calgary workshop is October 24 through 27 and the Edmonton workshop from October 30 through November 2. The workshop will provide participants with introductory principles and theories about tree climbing and safe mobility within a tree without the use of spurs or aerial lift devices. Participants must have post secondary horticulture training or three years pruning experience to be eligible for the course. As tree climbing is physically demanding, participants should also consult a physician prior to registration. Students will also require work boots, hard hat, gloves, eye protection and suitable warm comfortable clothing. Olds College will provide tree climbing gear. For more information about the workshop, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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Alberta
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# FutureSim II premieres in 1990

Almost three years ago a grains futures simulation game provided producers with an opportunity to experience the thrills and risks of hedging without laying real cash on the line. Early next year they'll get a chance to delve deeper into how futures market tick with FutureSim II.

"This version is more market oriented than the first FutureSim," says Lee Melvill, Alberta Agriculture's regional marketing specialist based in Fairview.

The highly successful and popular original FutureSim introduced producers to the mechanics and language of hedging. Melvill says the sequel provides a simulation that is closer to real world market conditions.

In the original FutureSim, participants' futures contracts were all bought or sold "at the market". In other words, contracts were filled at whatever the market price was when the decision to buy or sell was made. FutureSim II will allow participants to attempt to buy or sell futures contracts at a specified price. If the market hits that price, then their buy or sell order is filled.

FutureSim II has also been written to take account of the events that influence the market. This includes factors such as world weather patterns, world trade patterns and seeding and harvest dates for various commodities worldwide. For example, there is information about American and Brazilian soybean seeding and harvest. Both affect Canadian canola prices.

"The design and content of FutureSim II is a direct response to comments from the producers who participated in FutureSim simulations. Including more influences on the market does make FutureSim II more realistic," says Melvill.

Melvill advises that producers interested in FutureSim II should try the original FutureSim first to familiarize themselves with language and mechanics of using the futures market.

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FutureSim II premieres in 1990 (cont'd)

FutureSim II is scheduled to make its official appearance at Alberta Agriculture district offices starting in January 1990. By then it will have gone through a few trial runs. Mevill says he is still looking for volunteers from district offices to try the simulation.

For more information about FutureSim II, contact Melvill in Fairview at 835-2291, Errol Anderson in Airdrie at 948-8536 or Doug Walkey in Red Deer at 340-7612.

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Contact: Lee Melvill
835-2291

October 23, 1989
For immediate release

# Clean and winterize your sprayer

Cleaning and winterizing your sprayer is a good sense practice, but also takes some common sense to do it safely says an Alberta Agriculture application equipment specialist.

"One of the key things in cleaning a sprayer is to run the rinse water in an area where it won't contaminate groundwater. That means away from your yard and livestock wells and streams," says Terry Footz.

"One good way of disposing of the rinse is to run the sprayer up and down a field where the chemical has been used before. That way the water isn't concentrated in one place, and it's particularly important when you're using an 800 or 1,000 gallon tank," he says.

Footz also reminds farmers to wear protective clothing when they are rinsing their tanks. Even if the chemical is very diluted, it's still a good precaution to at least wear rubber gloves and boots, he says. How much protection depends on the particular chemical. An Alberta Agriculture brochure, "Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use" (homedex 1353-90), offers recommendations. It's available by contacting the Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or any Alberta Agriculture district office.

Cleaning the sprayer starts with removing all diaphragms from check values, screens, strainers, nozzle tips and boom-end plugs. Compressed air is the best cleaning method for screens and tips and will remove most blockages, but these parts should first be soaked in the same solution used for cleaning the sprayer.

Next, partially fill the tank with water to dilute any residues in the sprayer system. Circulate the solution through the sprayer and then drain it. Then fill the tank with water mixed with household ammonia or bleach. Footz recommends a rate of one part bleach or ammonia to 100 parts water. Circulate this mixture through the sprayer system and then let it sit for a minimum of eight hours. Footz also advises checking the label of the last-used pesticide for specific cleaning instructions.

(Cont'd)

"If you can, let the mixture sit overnight unless there is a possibility of freezing temperatures. If it is going to freeze and you have the shed space, you could leave it overnight indoors," says Footz.

Drain the mixture, re-fill the system, rinse it and then drain again. "This should ensure all residues are removed from the sprayer," he says.

Winterizing is the final stage after cleaning. Footz recommends using automobile antifreeze in a final rinse of the sprayer system. How much antifreeze depends on the size of the tank and booms, but two gallons should be sufficient in most cases, he says.

Strainers, nozzle tips, screens, diaphragms and boom-end plugs can then be replaced. Any openings should be plugged to prevent dirt, debris, rodents or insects from getting into the sprayer system. As well, Footz says removing the sprayer pump and storing it indoors is a good idea.

"One of the benefits of cleaning a sprayer now is saving time in the spring. During cleaning, farmers may find they need new parts. They can order them in the winter and have the sprayer ready to go when it's needed next spring," he says.

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Contact: Terry Footz
472-6043

October 23, 1989
For immediate release

# Department specialist honored as 1989 poultry serviceman

Alberta's poultry industry has honored a long time Alberta Agriculture employee as its 1989 "Alberta Poultry Serviceman of the Year".

Lyle Noel has been a poultry specialist with Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch for the last 16 years. He came to the provincial agriculture department in 1973 after working with Agriculture Canada's poultry division for in Edmonton for six years.

LYLE NOEL

The award was presented at a recent poultry servicemen's workshop, an annual technical session for people involved in servicing the poultry industry.

"Lyle Noel was recognized by the industry for his technical expertise in poultry production and his concern for the individual producer," says Tom Sydness, head of Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch.

The award is given annually by the Alberta poultry industry to an individual who has demonstrated skills in poultry service work and whose efforts have benefited the Alberta poultry industry. The recipient is selected by a panel of poultry servicemen from nominations submitted by the industry.

Noel is a 1968 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program. He is originally from Westlock.

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Contact: Tom Sydness
427-5090

Lyle Noel
427-5090

October 23, 1989
For immediate release

Three agribusinesses receive export awards

Three agribusinesses were among 17 Alberta companies saluted with 1989 Export Achievement Awards.

This is the eighth year Alberta Economic Development and Trade and Alberta Agriculture have recognized Alberta companies for their successful endeavors in marketing a diverse range of products and services.

Canada West Trading Corporation, of Calgary, was recognized for export marketing. One of Canada's leading food exporters, Canada West has focussed its marketing efforts on sales of high quality Alberta beef to Japan. Over the last three years marketing Alberta beef, the company has had steady increases, including a 450 per cent sales leap in 1988.

Canada West has introduced new styles and cuts of meat to its Japanese customers including value-added beef products such as portion striploins and portion control steaks.

The company credits its success to a high quality product and an intensive long-term marketing campaign based on market research and comprehensive demonstrations. Earlier this year the company mounted Canada's biggest display--keyed on Alberta beef--at Foodex, Asia's leading food show. The company projects further growth in the burgeoning Pacific Rim market, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea.

Another trading company, Selex Trading Limited, received an award for export financing for firms with under 50 employees. Selex is a domestic and international trader of live cattle, embryos and semen based in Edmonton. The company is well on its way to becoming the largest exporter of high quality cattle genetics to Australia, partly through a successful program of financing export sales through stock brokers as investment packages.

Company staff travel to Australia each year to do promotional work with their agents and local media, as well as maintaining close contacts with government agencies.

(Cont'd)

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Exports sales have tripled in each of the past two years and new opportunities are opening up in Europe and the Pacific Rim. The company has expanded from dealing only in beef breeds to include dairy cattle.

An award for new markets went to Alberta Distillers Limited, of Edmonton. The award was in the over 50 employee category. Last year the company achieved a breakthrough with its first sales of Canadian whiskey to England and Scotland. Japan was another success story contributing to a steady rise in export sales that were nearly 40 per cent of total sales last year.

Favorable reception of the company's bulk exports of aged whiskies is fuelling demand for domestically bottled whiskies and keeping the distillery working at full capacity 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

Alberta Distillers is also unique in Canada as it has formed an association with a Japanese company located in Alberta's sister province of Hokkaido, greatly strengthening its position in the emerging southeast Asian market.

The Export Achievement Award presentations are part of activities during Export Trade Month in October.

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Contact: Don Daintery
Canada West Trading Corp.
295-3838

Jim Miller
Selex Trading Ltd.
455-7161

Jaime De La Barrera
Alberta Distillers Ltd.
489-1021

October 23, 1989
For immediate release

# Alberta Agriculture Appointments

## NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN STONY PLAIN

Ty Faechner is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Stony Plain. Faechner was Ryley's district agriculturist for the last four years. He also spent a year with the district office in Lac La Biche. "I'm excited about the challenge of a new district and look forward to serving its agricultural clients," he says. Faechner has also worked with Alberta Agriculture as a testing co-ordinator for the Green Certificate program. He was also a pesticide training officer for Alberta Environment and worked for Agriculture Canada regulating pedigree seed, fertilizers and feed. Faechner obtained both BSc (1974) and MSc (1977) in agriculture degrees from the University of Alberta. He was raised on a grain and livestock farm in the Craigmyle area about 20 miles west of Hanna. He can be contacted in Stony Plain at 963-6101.

## REGIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATORS APPOINTED

Two regional soil conservation co-ordinators have begun their duties related to major federal/provincial conservation programs. Patrick Hawkings will work in the north central region around Red Deer while Robert Dunn is based in Lethbridge serving the southern region. Both will co-ordinate and implement projects and activities related to the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology (CARTT) program and the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI). Regional co-ordinators work

ROBERT DUNN

PATRICK HAWKINGS

(Cont'd)

REGIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATORS APPOINTED (cont'd)
closely with district agriculturists, Agriculture Service Board (ASB) fieldmen, farm organizations and regional staff to co-ordinate local conservation plans and administer funding through the CARTT and CASCI programs. This includes facilitating and co-ordinating training, planning and technical expertise for ASBs, producer groups and individual farmers. The co-ordinators are also members of regional committees that review conservation action plans and project applications for CARTT and CASCI. Hawkings was Stony Plain's district agriculturist before moving to his new position. He spent eight years in Stony Plain after training in the Falher office. He was also a summer district agriculturist in Ponoka in 1980. Hawkings is a 1981 graduate of the University of Alberta BSc in agriculture program. He grew up on his family's mixed farm near Forshee in west central Alberta. He can be contacted in Red Deer at 340-5329. Dunn had been district agriculturist in Stettler since 1985. After graduating from University of Alberta in 1980 with a BSc in agriculture, he worked as a sales representative for Monsanto Canada for four years. Dunn is originally from the Didsbury area. He grew up on his family's mixed farming operation west of Didsbury. He can be contacted in Lethbridge at 381-5124.

October 23, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

FARMFAIR RETURNS TO NORTHLANDS

The 1989 edition of Northlands Farmfair returns November 2 through 11 in Edmonton. One of Canada's largest livestock shows and sales, Farmfair includes dairy and beef cattle, sheep, swine, horses, calves, rabbits, pigeons, poultry and other types of fowl. Admission is free to the activities at the Northlands Agricom. At the same time the 6th annual Northlands Western Art Show and Sale featuring oil, acrylic, pencil, bronze and clay works by Prairie artists runs November 8 through 11. Canada's top cowboys will compete at the Canadian Finals Rodeo XVI also November 8 through 11. For more information contact Patti Stewart or Kevin Sinnott at 471-7210 or 1-800-661-5650 toll-free in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

FALL FOCUS'89 IN CAMROSE NOVEMBER 15

Rural women in the Camrose area can take a break from their routine by attending the third annual Fall Focus, a farm women's conference. Participants at the November 15 conference start their day with Lynne Arling, Calgary president of the Consumers Association of Canada, and her presentation, "Stand up for yourself". There is a choice of three sessions for the rest of the morning about insurance on the farm, managing the hectic pace of the Christmas season and dressing to feel good. During lunch is a fashion show of crafts and wearable creations from the Camrose county area. Afternoon select-a-sessions are about understanding the aging process, local adventures in the Battle River tourist area and living with teens positively. Red Deer psychologist, Derryn Yeomans will focus on personal potential. The conference closes with an evening banquet. Full registration including meals is $25. For registration and other information call Sheralyn Dobos, Camrose district home economist, at 679-1210.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News Briefs (cont'd)

FARMING FOR FUTURE APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1

Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future agricultural research program will soon begin its annual review of grant awards. All applications to Farming for the Future's Research Program must be received by November 1, 1989. This deadline doesn't apply to Farming for the Future's On-Farm Demonstration Program which considers applications at any time. For further information, contact: Secretary, Farming for the Future Council, 202, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or at 427-1956.

# AGRI-NEWS

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# Slight decline in farm cash receipts expected

Farm cash receipts are projected to decrease by one per cent to $4.39 billion this year says an Alberta Agriculture statistician.

"The decrease is expected primarily because of an expected significant decline in program payments. The 31 per cent decline in program payments is offset by higher receipts from beef, oat and barley sales," says Bill Schissel.

"It's refreshing to see returns from the market place are increasing, while program payments are declining. Strong grain prices, a healthy beef cattle sector and the possibility of recovery in the hog sector bodes well for farm income in 1990," he adds.

Relatively stable farm cash receipts and increased operating expenditures in 1989, will push realized net income down from its record level in 1988, he says. While realized net income is predicted to be down 28 per cent from last year's record, it's still substantially above the five-year average. The estimated 1989 total is $686 million, the five-year average figure is $529 million.

"Last year's record level of $956 million was exceptionally high for several reasons. During the spring, grain prices were still low and that influenced farmers to keep their input costs down. About mid-year, grain prices jumped significantly adding to crop receipts. Transfer programs--Western Grain Stabilization and Special Canadian Grains--were still making substantial payments," Schissel says.

Farm operating expenses will be about six per cent higher this year, totalling just over $3.7 billion. Increased expenses are expected from higher labor costs, larger interest payments and increases in input costs including fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, seed and machinery repair. Higher stabilization premiums will also add to operating expenses, he says.

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Contact: Bill Schissel
427-4011

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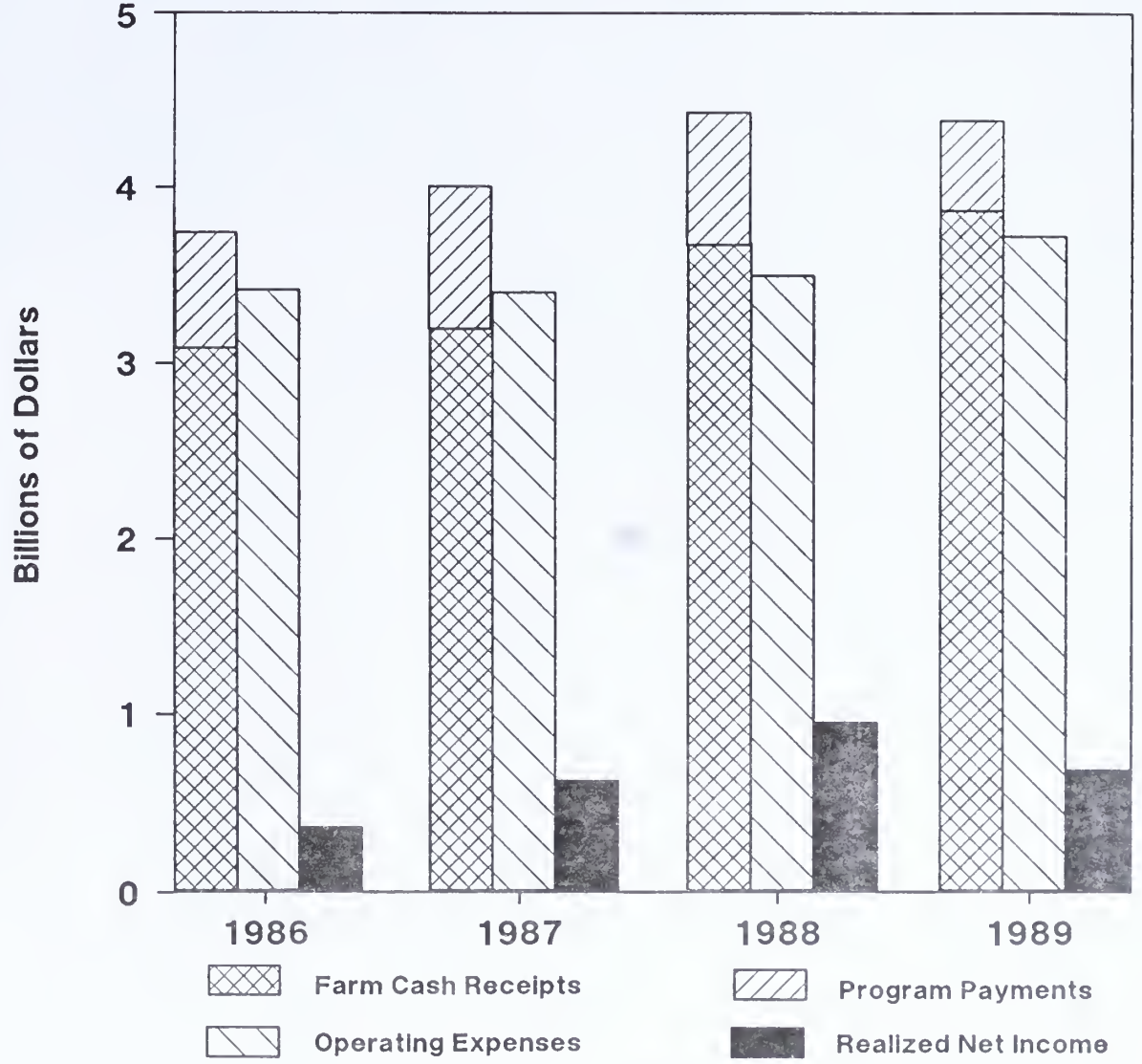
Phone: (403) 427-2121

# FARM RECEIPTS, EXPENSES AND REALIZED NET INCOME

1986 - 1989

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STATISTICS BRANCH

October 30, 1989
For immediate release

UFA sponsors scholarships to Ag in the Classroom project

An Alberta agribusiness will provide scholarships for teachers taking an agriculture awareness course during the next four years.

Each summer United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) will provide $15,000 towards scholarship funding for up to 30 teachers to attend the Summer Agriculture Institute, a full-credit, fourth year, university level course. The Institute will be held at Lethbridge Community College and credited by the University of Lethbridge in 1990.

"While agriculture is a critical industry in our economy, directly and indirectly giving jobs to one-third of Albertans, many people tend to take it for granted. We fully support Alberta Agriculture's efforts to open the eyes of urban and rural youth to a very vital industry and we're proud to be part of the Summer Agriculture Institute program," says UFA president Howard Haney.

"We are very pleased and excited about the support UFA has shown for the Summer Agriculture Institute. It's the first program of its kind in Canada and we believe it will play a critical leadership role in creating greater agricultural awareness," says Shirley McClellan, Associate Agriculture Minister.

The Institute is a co-operative venture between Alberta Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom Program, the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge Community College and the UFA. Each partner will be contributing organizational and resource support for the Institute. Class assignments, lesson plans with the agricultural awareness theme, will be published by the Ag in the Classroom program for the benefit of all Alberta teachers.

At the ten-day Institute, teachers will explore the diversity of Alberta's agriculture industry through expert guest speakers, agricultural tours and a stay with a farm family. Agricultural production, processing, marketing and research and development will all be highlighted.

(Cont'd)

UFA sponsor scholarships to Ag in the Classroom project (cont'd)

This hands-on learning is combined with practical curriculum development the teachers can take back to their classroom. Participants will also get valuable instructional resource material and contacts with the industry for future school visits and tours.

"Teachers with both urban and rural backgrounds are encouraged to apply for Summer Agriculture Institute scholarships. We're particularly seeking people prepared to take leadership roles in their community and to be able to do professional development with their colleagues," says Betty Gabert, co-ordinator of the Ag in the Classroom project.

Practicing Alberta teachers at all grade levels and 4th year education students will be eligible to attend the Institute.

Brochures, with program details, will be sent to boards of education and schools across the province during the fall. There will be a spring application deadline.

The Summer Agriculture Institute will move to a new location in the province each year. After a first stop in Lethbridge, the Institute will move on to agricultural colleges in Olds, Vermilion and Fairview.

The Ag in the Classroom program is designed to help teachers incorporate agricultural awareness in school curricula through the use of prepared lesson plans and resources. It provides an awareness of the agricultural industry to Alberta students and teachers. While highlighting the importance of agriculture in Alberta, the program also demonstrates the diverse career opportunities available in the industry.

For more information about either the Summer Agriculture Institute or the Ag in the Classroom program, contact Betty Gabert at 2nd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call 427-2403.

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College
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October 30, 1989
For immediate release

# Processed alfalfa predicted to reach record production level

Canadian processed alfalfa production in 1989-90 will set a new record at 619,000 tonnes predicts an Alberta Agriculture special commodities analyst.

"Pellet production will fall from last year's 435,000 tonnes to about 404,000 tonnes, but cube production is expected to increase by 27 per cent," says Al Dooley, of the market analysis branch.

Alberta leads the nation in processed alfalfa production accounting for slightly over half of the expected 1989-90 pellet production and a vast majority of alfalfa cubes.

Dooley says prices for the processed feed will likely average lower than in 1988-89. Drought conditions in North America pushed up prices last year. This year's wet August will likely affect prices locally. Hay quality deteriorated when some swaths lay in the rain for long periods. "Some of this product may be price discounted in our export markets or may have to be sold into less traditional markets," he says.

Dehy pellet prices are currently about $3 per tonne lower (basis container yard Vancouver) than the mid-$140 per tonne received in the fall of 1988. Cube prices are up from year ago levels by about $5 per tonne for top quality product.

Canadian exports of processed alfalfa reached record levels in 1988-89 as export market diversification continued. Japan is the largest market, and Dooley says significant growth is expected in both Korean and Taiwanese markets.

"Product quality and price competitiveness will continue to be vital to the long-term development of the industry," he says in a situation and outlook report. He adds growth should continue especially in longer fiber products such as cubes and compressed hay bales. The wild card, as usual, is the weather. "The weather, as always, will be critical to achieving production potential and in maintaining product quality."

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Contact: Al Dooley
427-5383

October 30, 1989
For immediate release

# 1989 Alberta Beef Cattle Performance Awards announced

The 1989 winners of Alberta Agriculture's annual awards for beef cattle performance have been announced.

Doug Fraser, a purebred Hereford producer from Hussar, and Ron Noble, a commercial producer from Lloydminster, were chosen as this year's recipients of Alberta Beef Cattle Performance Awards.

"Alberta Agriculture takes pride in recognizing these producers for their role in enhancing both the reputation and performance of Alberta beef cattle," says Chuck Huedepohl, supervisor of beef cattle breeding and performance testing for Alberta Agriculture.

Fraser has been part of the performance testing scene in Alberta since formal performance testing was started here in 1959. The Fraser herd was among the first to be enrolled in the Federal-Provincial Beef Record of Performance (ROP) program.

"Since then, Doug has applied the principles of performance selection in his breeding program, along with some practical cattle sense. By doing so, and without using the high profile of the show ring, the D.M. Fraser herd has progressed to a position of prominence in the Canadian Hereford industry," says Huedepohl.

Fraser has been a consistent supporter of innovations in the field of performance testing, he adds. A dedicated user of the home test program, he consigned bulls to the Alberta Hereford Progeny Test Program as long as that program ran. Along with a very successful production bull sale, the Fraser family has also supported both Innisfail and Bassano test stations consigning bulls there every year since the stations started. As well, he has frequently sent bulls into Idaho and Montana to be tested against bulls in the U.S. northwest.

His leadership role in supporting performance testing has also included: serving on the Canadian Hereford Association (CHA) performance committee that launched the Total Herd Evaluation (THE) program in Canada; terms as president of both the AHA and CHA; and, investigating new technology such as expected progeny differences (EPD's) and ultrasonics evaluating carcass quality of live animals.

(Cont'd)

"Doug has always been prepared to put his beliefs on the line and to lead by example," says Huedepohl.

The commercial award winner, Noble, runs about 500 breeding females at his Lloydminster area ranch. "In his efforts to put together a profitable beef operation, Ron has made real progress by implementing principles of sound cattle breeding along with resourceful management," says Huedepohl.

Noble's breeding program is designed to take advantage of hybrid vigor, as well as the complementary characteristics of the Hereford and Simmental breeds. His program generates a cross-bred Simmental-Hereford cow that is bred to purebred Simmental bulls.

Part of Noble's success can be attributed to his innovative herd management practices. "I believe that if we make the most of our environment and utilize its natural advantages, it will help the product pay its way," says Noble.

One example of those innovations is his winter feeding program. He has extended his grazing season by using fields that might otherwise have been fallow. About July 1, after being fertilized with manure, fields are seeded with a barley-oat mixture. At the end of the "normal" grazing season, around October 1, he turns his cows out on this cover crop at a rate of one cow per acre. Cows are removed about mid-January and begin calving about two weeks later.

Noble has gained the respect of many seedstock producers through his practical approach to beef production. He has judged cattle at most major livestock shows across Canada, as well as many of the local shows around the Lloydminster area.

Each of the winners will receive a gate sign and wall plaque acknowledging their achievements. The awards are presented annually to recognize producers who have consistently applied the principles of beef cattle performance testing in their breeding programs and promote those concepts to the industry. Award nominations are received from the industry at large and are reviewed by a committee of producers, scientists and government representatives.

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Contact: Chuck Huedepohl
427-5083

October 30, 1989
For immediate release

# Alberta 4-H leaders visit Montana

Eight Alberta 4-H leaders return home today after attending a leaders' forum in Montana.

Nick Zayac, of Derwent, Ken Parsons, of Youngstown, Laura Visscher, of Gibbons, Natalka Semeniuk, of Evansburg, Verna Elliott, of Seven Persons, Marvin Tkach, of Coronation, Mary Bollen, of Hines Creek and Charlotte Swanson, of Milk River, took part in the 12th annual Montana 4-H Leaders' Forum in Miles City, Montana from October 27 through 29.

"Workshops at the forum provided these leaders with training and opportunities for self development," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

Diverse workshop topics included horse packing, wildlife and natural resource fun, a stock dog exhibition, becoming a budding artist, interview and record book judging, teaching leaders to teach, marketing 4-H and the case for creativity in 4-H.

Keynote speaker, John Paul Murphy, opened the conference with a discussion of "keys to dynamic leadership". He later led a session on working with groups and making them successful. Murphy, of Utah State University, is also an assistant 4-H leader.

Alberta Power Limited and TransAlta Utilities sponsor the Montana trip for 4-H leaders. The utility companies were honored for their 25-year association with 4-H at a send-off luncheon for the leaders in Red Deer on October 26. Company representatives were presented with sponsorship plaques by Mahlon Weir, supervisor of 4-H program services. Representing Alberta Power was Dan VanKeeken, with Ralph Sloan there on behalf of TransAlta Utilities.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Mahlon Weir
427-2541

October 30, 1989
For immediate release

# Winterizing your yard with mulches

Trees, roses and strawberries are among the types of plants you can protect during the winter by using mulches says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Mulches should be applied after the ground is frozen. Depending on what type of plant you're protecting, you can use peat moss, clean straw or even the leaves you've raked from your lawn," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton. All plants should be watered well before freezing conditions occur, she adds.

Around trees, mulches increase moisture retention and decrease the depth of frost. It will also maintain a more even soil temperature so thawing and freezing is reduced during warm spells over the winter.

Covering strawberry plants with a mulch is especially important in areas where snow cover is light or where the berry plants have a southern exposure and the snow melts easily. "Mulches are used to prevent the plants from drying out and to prevent freezing of the plants and flower buds. The protective mulch may increase yields," she says.

The best mulch for strawberry plants is wheat straw because it is thick, but light, and doesn't break down, she says. Grass clipping and leaves aren't recommended because they compact easily and get soggy. Peat moss does work, but is light and may be blown away, so it should be anchored with spruce boughs or another material.

"Put on the mulch after a few light frosts, when the plants are dormant. A good guide is when temperatures drop to minus five degrees Celsius and stay there, that's usually between mid and late October," she says. North says to put on the mulch in the morning before the ground surface thaws and to cover the plants with about 10 cm of mulch.

(Cont'd)

Winterize your yard with mulches (cont'd)

In the spring, after the danger of severe frost has passed, the mulch can be removed. If it is removed too early, the blossoms are subject to spring frosts and if it's removed too late, blossoming is delayed.

Grafted, hybrid tea, grandiflora and floribunda roses all need winter protection. Most shrub roses, says North, are hardy and don't need protection.

After pruning the stems 25 to 30 cm from the ground, roses should be covered after the ground starts to freeze and before it snows. "The cover should be porous, resistant to decay and allow drainage of excess moisture. Peat moss, clean straw or soil are preferred," she says, adding, "Peat moss is easier to remove in the spring."

North advises forming the mulch in a mound to a height of 30 cm. Peat moss may need to be covered with a layer of soil, burlap, chicken wire or boxes to hold it down.

Snow cover is important for roses. If the rose has a southern exposure, North advises shoveling snow over the mulch to keep it covered.

The mulch can usually be removed by mid-April when trees start to leaf out.

For more information about winterizing yards and gardens, contact North at the Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

October 30, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

VIDEO DISCUSSES PESTICIDES IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Alberta Agriculture's Film Library has acquired at 26-minute video called "The Risks of Pesticides in the Food Chain". The video discusses registration and labeling of pesticides, consumer price and quality expectations, and the merits of both organic and chemically-assisted crops. It will be of particular interest to consumers worried about possible health problems caused by using chemicals to grow produce. Colorado State University Co-operative Extension produced the video, and while it is an excellent production, it does have a decidedly American slant. The video (609VT) can be borrowed by contacting the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

NORTHEAST 4-H REGIONAL JUDGING TEAM CHOSEN

Over 50 4-H members from 20 clubs in the northeastern region participated in the second annual multi-species livestock judging clinic and competition at the Lakeland College Farm in Vermilion in mid-October. Ten members were chosen to represent the region at the provincial judging school in November. Team members are: Brian Davies, Vermilion Light Horse Club; Merrilea Tillotson, Birch Lake Bits 'N Spurs; Kerry McCarty, Vegreville Multi Club; Jennifer Babiuk, Brosseau Beef/Lakeland Riders; Jackie Homeniuk, Two Hills Beef Club; Sharon Crawford, Irma Beef Club; Stacey Sellers, Birch Lake Bits'N Spurs; Cameron Horner, St. Paul Multi Club; Christina Garnier, Clandonald Beef Club; and, Shelley Snyder, Andrew Beef Club.

ALBERTA STUDENT SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECT AWARD WINNER

Robin Pinchin, of Bragg Creek, was one of seven Canadian students to receive national recognition for a soil conservation project. The Soil Conservation Awards are sponsored by Agriculture Canada as part of the Youth Science Foundation's and the Conseil de developpement du loisir scientifique's science fairs. Students become eligible to win the

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ALBERTA STUDENT SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECT AWARD WINNER

awards by submitting projects dealing with soil conservation to their local science fairs. They are nominated for the national awards. Awards recognize outstanding achievement in science studies and effective problem solving skills. For more information, contact Laurie Harris, Agriculture Canada, in Edmonton at 495-4141.

1989'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 1989 are from Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Ontario. They are: David and Wendy Brenn, of Flamborough, Ontario; Don and Diane Guilford, of Clearwater, Manitoba; and Donald and Darlene Downe, of Wileville, Nova Scotia. The three couples were chosen by judges as the receipients of the W.R. Motherwell awards at a special recognition banquet on October 23 in Calgary. Eight regional nominees are invited to the national recognition program, designed to recognize achievements of farmers across the nation. This year was the 10th anniversary of the awards program sponsored by the Canadian Junior chamber/Jaycees and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede along with the Bank of Montreal, John Deere Limited and Hoechst Canada. For more information, contact the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Agriculture Department at 261-0313.

CANADIAN WESTERN AGRIBITION NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 1

Advertised as "where the world meets", the Canadian Western Agribition continues to provide a showcase of Prairie agriculture in its 1989 edition. Livestock shows include 20 purebred beef breeds, commercial cattle, dairy, sheep, swine and horses. Its trade and technology show offers over 550 booths displaying agricultural products, services and technology. Also part of activities between November 25 and December 1 are an agri-ed showcase, a western lifestyles showcase, a grain and forage show, the profile of champions and the sale of champions. For information on accommodation, show times and for schedules, contact the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina at (306)565-0565.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

CANOLA TO BE INTRODUCED TO US SOUTH EAST

Four North American agricultural companies are joining forces to develop a canola growing belt in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. A canola variety called Delta, developed by Allelix Crop Technologies, will be marketed by Atlanta-basd Agratech Seed Inc and will be sold though the Gold Kist Inc., an elevator distribution network. The fourth member of the partnership is Archer Daniels Midland Company, who will crush the canola at its plant in Augusta, Georgia. This is the first introduction of canola on a commerical scale in the U.S. coastal plains region. Allelix Crop Technologies is located in Tennesse, but also has research and breeding facilities in Canada. For more information, contact Bruce Magee, of Allelix Crop Technologies, in Toronto at (416)677-0831.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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November 6, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

November 6, 1989
For immediate release

# Beefing up the Japanese market

A strong yen, millions of Japanese tourists and high disposable incomes in Japan are all good news for Alberta beef producers.

Japanese consumers are eating more meat, and particularly more beef, than they did twenty years ago. Affluence and health concerns have changed Japanese diets. An increasingly Westernized diet is a consequence of higher incomes; more dollars to spend on food allows for experimenting with new foods and diversifying menus.

Rising incomes have also increased the numbers of Japanese travelling abroad. They've picked up new food likes during their visits, and Western style restaurants are catching on in Japan. Other trends have also influenced changing diets. Food companies are building ties abroad and more semi-finished and consumer packaged food products are being imported by the Japanese wholesale and retail food industry.

Japanese beef consumption began its soar upwards during the 1970s. Imports increased from just over 23,000 tonnes in 1970, to almost 132,000 by 1979.

"In May, Canadian beef exports to Japan were triple the pace of the same time the year before and had almost equaled total sales for 1988," says David Wong, Alberta Agriculture senior trade director for Asia Pacific. Beef sales are projected to hit $40 million this year, compared to just $19 million in 1988.

Most of the Canadian total is Alberta beef, Wong says. "A decade of promotion and a lot of hard work by the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta packers and the government is paying off. But it's been a long road and the work has just begun."

The Japanese are buying more because of changes in their economy and eating habits. Relaxation of restrictive trade tariffs is another critical factor in Japanese market opportunities. The present quota system will be dropped in 1991 and replaced with a decreasing tariff. But, a more open and competitive marketplace alone won't guarantee sales, he says.

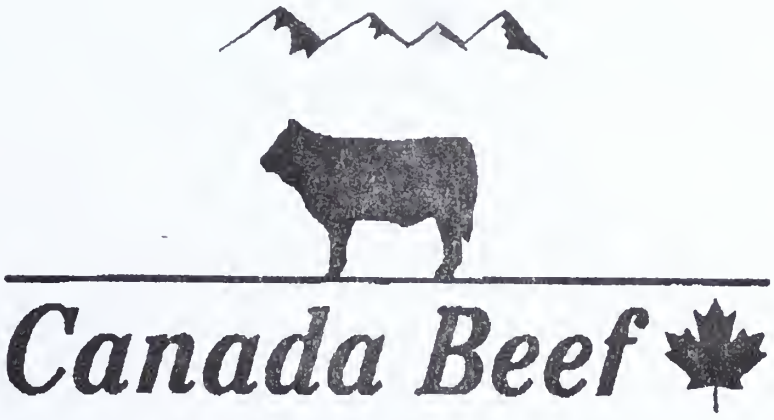
(Cont'd)

Beefing up the Japanese (cont'd)

"We feel we are doing well in exporting food products from beef to french fries because of the quality of Alberta's products," says Wong. "Even though the Japanese are very dependent on food imports--40 per cent of their food is imported--they are still very demanding and exacting about what they buy."

Competition in the Japanese market place is tough. Good and consistent quality, a dependable supply, plus a willingness to work with Japanese businesses to develop marketable products are all essential for survival.

Leading the charge in promoting Canadian beef as meeting that criteria, is the Canadian Beef Export Federation (CANADA BEEF). The federation was only officially incorporated in April, but its roots go back to the easing of Japanese quota restrictions.




The Canadian Beef Export Federation (CANADA BEEF) logo features a black silouette of a beef animal with blue mountains in the background. Canada Beef is written below in red with a red maple leaf.

"The industry saw that a co-ordinated approach would be the best one to promote their product in the international marketplace. CANADA BEEF's formation followed years of analysis, studying the activities of major competitors, market research in Japan and investigating other offshore markets," says Wong.

(Cont'd)

Beefing up the Japanese market (cont'd)

"The objective of the organization is to promote demand for Canadian beef products in the international marketplace. Initially, CANADA BEEF is concentrating its efforts on promoting beef in the Japanese market," he says.

Dennis Laycraft, executive director of the federation, says CANADA BEEF won't be directly involved with commercial transactions, but will assist federation members to promote their products to consumers, retailers, wholesalers and foodservice outlets in export markets. As well, it will be an information source on market access and regulations, business and cultural practices and statistics for its members.

At a recent meeting in Winnipeg, CANADA BEEF confirmed it will open an office in Tokyo and will kick off its activities with a major presentation in Japan in November.

CANADA BEEF's board of directors includes representatives of all the major beef packers in Alberta, a beef export company, the Canadian Meat Council, the Alberta Cattle Commission and Alberta Agriculture.

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Contact: David Wong
427-4241

Dennis Laycraft
274-0005

November 6, 1989
For immediate release

# Blackleg of canola video now available

As part of a continuing effort to help farmers identify, prevent and control virulent blackleg of canola, Alberta Agriculture has produced a video about this destructive fungal disease.

The 12-minute video discusses the threat of virulent blackleg of canola with a canola grower, an agricultural fieldman, an oilseed specialist and a plant pathologist. It also outlines prevention and control measures for the damaging fungus.

"We're hoping individual farmers, commodity groups and agricultural industry personnel will avail themselves of this instructional information to help themselves and canola industry to combat this very real economic threat," says Ieuan Evans, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch.

This month copies of the video will become part of all Alberta Agriculture district video libraries. Regional crop production specialists and regional plant pathologists will also have copies of the blackleg of canola video. It will also be available from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library in Edmonton.

Blackleg of canola has become a very serious threat to canola production in the province. First identified in Alberta in 1983, the fungal disease is now widespread in the east central region of the province. "Individual canola growers in this region have experienced crop losses of up to 60 per cent from this highly infectious fungal disease," says Evans.

Alberta crops losses are still a small fraction of those in Saskatchewan where blackleg of canola has been found throughout that province's canola growing region. Between ten and 15 per cent of the total Saskatchewan canola crop, valued at more than $30 million, has been lost because of the disease, he says.

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Contact: Ieuan Evans
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Phil Thomas
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November 6, 1989
For immediate release

# Feeding low quality grains

Producers can use several feeding strategies to offset possible negative effects of feeding their livestock low quality grains.

"Poor growing and harvesting conditions in the province this year have resulted in a considerable quantity of frozen, sprouted or low bushel weight grain being available," says animal nutritionist Dale Engstrom.

"Mold-free low quality grains can certainly be used in most feeding programs, if they are priced right and rations are properly adjusted," says Engstrom, who works out of Alberta Agriculture's Soil and Animal Nutrition Laboratory in Edmonton.

"A few very basic guidelines can help producers make decisions about buying and using low quality grain," says Engstrom. "Start by visually appraising the grain to see if molds are present. If there are no molds, get a bushel weight of the sample. Although bushel weight isn't an accurate indicator of total feed value, it's easy to do and provides useful information."

There isn't evidence to show grain two or three pounds per bushel below the standard is worth less than normal grain, he says. However, for grain lighter than this, a price discount of one per cent for each pound of bushel weight below the standard is a more than adequate, he says. For example, if a standard 48 lb./bu. barley is worth $95 per tonne, then 38 lb./bu. barley would be worth $85.50.

To compensate for lower digestible energy values in low quality grain, adjustments to rations may be required. "Gains of hogs and cattle on full feed likely won't be affected unless the grain is of extremely low quality, well below a 42 to 44 lb./bu. weight," he says.

(Cont'd)

Feeding low quality grains (cont'd)

There are two options if hogs and cattle are fed limited amounts of grain. The amount of grain fed can be increased to provided the same energy level that would have been supplied with normal grain, or the energy content of the grain mix can be increased by substituting high energy feeds such as wheat or fat.

Engstrom says accurately predicting the performance of livestock fed low quality grain is difficult. Frozen, sprouted and low bushel weight grain have similar chemical properties and feeding characteristics. Low quality grain has lost some of its starch, the grain kernel's main building block. Starch is also the storage carbohydrate that provides calories needed by livestock. Drought, lodging or frost damage before grain ripens, lessens starch deposits in the kernel. Sprouted grain uses starch reserves to germinate.

"What causes the quality loss doesn't seem important to the livestock. It's surprising that it takes a large reduction in quality, as measured by bushel weight to cause a measurable difference in performance," he says.

He cites several studies that back up his statement. Growth and feed efficiency of growing pigs weren't adversely affected in a University of Alberta trial that used sprouted and frozen barley. The bushel weights were as low as 45 lb. for sprouted barley and 42 lb. for frozen barley. In an Idaho study, gain wasn't affected by feeding sprouted wheat, but feed efficiency was reduced by up to eight per cent. Similar results have been obtained for feedlot cattle. In Alberta experiments, average daily gain wasn't decreased when cattle were fed finishing diets made up with low bushel weight barley. However, feed efficiency was decreased making low bushel weight barley less valuable.

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
436-9150

November 6, 1989
For immediate release

British swine geneticist headlines experts at Banff Pork Seminar

An internationally renowned swine geneticist is the one of the featured expert speakers at the 19th annual Banff Pork Seminar next January 23 through 26.

John (A.J.) Webb, currently director of genetics with the Cotswold Pig Development Company and responsible for the company's commercial genetic improvement program that includes over 4,000 sows, has an extensive background in genetic research and experience in genetic improvement programs.

Webb's research has won him both national and international recognition. Between 1973 and 1986 his research work included the inheritance of halothane sensitivity, evaluation of foreign breeds, leg weakness, the genetics of lean growth and performance testing systems. He was also involved in arrangements to import Chinese Meishan pigs into the United Kingdom. He has maintained a strong research interest in the genetics of eating quality, growth promoters and the Meishan pig.

DR. JOHN WEBB

"His presentations at the seminar on selecting for lean growth and selecting for improved reproductive performance will be extremely informative," says Fred Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch.

(Cont'd)

British swine geneticist headlines experts at Banff Pork Seminar (cont'd)

Two other featured speakers are Norman Steele, an American swine growth and nutrition researcher, and David Fraser, a leading world expert in animal behavior and welfare from Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

Participants at the seminar will hear experts discuss four major topic areas: feeding for maximum performance, managing for improved reproductive performance, business management options in swine production and animal welfare considerations in swine management.

Alberta Agriculture is one of the seminar's sponsoring agencies along with the University of Alberta, the Alberta Pork Congress, the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation and the Western Hog Growers Association.

For more information about the seminar, contact: the University of Alberta faculty of extension in Edmonton at 492-3092; any Alberta Agriculture regional swine specialist; or, the pork industry branch at 427-5320.

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Contact: Fred Schuld
427-5320

November 6, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appointments

A FAMILIAR FACE IS NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN VULCAN

Rita Scobie is both the new, and is also a former, Vulcan district home economist. She served as the area's district home economist from 1971 through 1976. For a year, between 1972 and 1973, she was seconded to the Alberta Cattle Commission and worked setting up its consumer education program. For the last 13 years she has been farming with her husband and raising their family. "I also kept involved with activities related to my profession such as fair judging, 4-H and being available to work on programs with district home economists," she says. Scobie, originally from near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan's BSHEc program in 1971. District home economists are a member of Alberta Agriculture's extension team that works to enhance the economic and social well-being of rural Alberta families. Scobie can be contacted in Vulcan at 485-2236.

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN FORT VERMILION

Leona Skulmoski is the new district home economist in Fort Vermilion. She takes over from Dorene Slater who transferred to the Drumheller district office. Skulmoski graduated from the University of Manitoba in May 1989 with a bachelor's degree in human ecology. "I'm very excited about my appointment as district home economist and look forward to living and working in the Fort Vermilion district. Last summer she was an assistant home economist with the Manitoba agriculture department. Skulmoski hails from the farming community of Pine River in northwestern Manitoba. Active in 4-H, she was a Manitoba 4-H Ambassador. As district home economist she is a resource person for rural families offering information and education programs on variety of economic and social areas from financial management to food and nutrition. She will also work with area 4-H clubs. Skulmoski can be contacted in Fort Vermilion at 927-3712.

(Cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture appointments (cont'd)

PROVINCIAL CASCI CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED

A former long time district agriculturist is the provincial co-ordinator of the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI). Randy Bjorklund was district agriculturist in Lloydminster for 15 years from 1974 through to the end of June, 1989. Before that, he worked in the Lac La Biche district office for a year. His new position involves co-ordinating the new federal-provincial soil conservation program and working closely with Agricultural Service Boards and producer organizations in the area of soil conservation. When a district agriculturist, Bjorklund worked with regional soil and water and crop production committees for a number of years. Earlier this year, he was involved with two conservation tillage projects demonstrating wide blade cultivator use. Bjorklund holds a bachelor of science in agriculture degree (1973) from the University of Saskatchewan. He was raised on a mixed farming operation at Simmie, Saskatchewan, 50 miles southwest of Swift Current. He can be contacted in Edmonton at 422-4385.

RANDY BJORKLUND



AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 6, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

SECOND ALBERTA LIVESTOCK GENETICS CONFERENCE

Livestock genetics in the 90's is the theme of Alberta's second annual livestock genetics conference. The Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) sponsored event will be in Red Deer December 13 and 14. "We hope to build on the information made available to purebred producers at last year's conference and, once again, to highlight world-wide marketing opportunities available to producers of top quality genetics," says ACABA president Drew Mundie. Information about ACABA promotional activities in purebred cattle and sheep sectors will also be highlighted. One of the conference's featured speakers is John Crouch, of the American Angus Association. He will discuss marketing opportunities available to producers who use effective performance testing on their herds and types of cattle most in demand in the U.S. Another featured speaker is Australian Geoff Kirton, of Woodlands Agriculture Services. He will talk about current and future marketing opportunities for Alberta's live cattle, semen and embryos in his home country. Kirton was involved in importing the first Gelbvieh and Maine-Anjou cattle into Australia in 1973. More details about the conference are available by contacting the ACABA office at 2504 Toronto Crescent N.W., Calgary, T2N 3V9, telephone 282-8181 or Terry Appleby, Alberta Agriculture marketing services at 427-7366.

NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD POLICY CONFERENCE

Another step in broad consultations leading to a comprehensive national framework for agri-food policies has been announced by federal agriculture minister Don Mazankowski. A national agri-food policy conference will be held December 11 and 12 at the Ottawa Congress Centre. The conference will be a working meeting where farm leaders, food industry executives, agriculture ministers and other interested parties will discuss major issues facing Canada's agri-food sector. Agenda topics will include marketing and value-adding, supply

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD POLICY CONFERENCE (cont'd)

management, safety net programs, financing and managing the family farm, food safety, transportation policy and sustainable agriculture. The federal government will soon release a discussion paper that explores these key issues. Registration forms for the conference can be obtained by calling 1-800-267-5185 or by writing to National Agri-Food Policy Conference, Agriculture Canada, Sir John Carling Building, Room 616, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C5.

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE WEEK MARCH 11-17

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Minister Shirley McClellan have announced Alberta's annual Agriculture Week will be March 11 through 17 in 1990. Agriculture Week will kick off with a salute to Agriculture Hall of Fame inductees.

PROVINCIAL POULTRY, PIGEON RABBIT AND CAVY SHOW

Alberta's 75th annual provincial poultry, pigeon, rabbit and cavy (guinea pig) show will be held at Stampede Park in Calgary December 2 and 3. The feather part of the show features conventional and special fowl including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and pheasants along with the pigeon show. Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. spectators can hear the world champion rooster crowing contest. For more information contact Don Stewart, Calgary Exhibition and Stampede at 261-0121.

EDSON AND DISTRICT FARM WOMEN'S DAY

Edson area farm women can take part in "Meeting the Challenge" November 30 at the Edson and district Golf and Curling Club. Edson district home economist Rhonda Reid says the day-long conference is open to everyone. Two featured guest speakers, select-a-sessions and round table discussions are part of the day's activities. The special guest speakers will share topics of: the challenge of farming in Tanzania and the trials and tribulations of farm women from biblical times to the

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

EDSON AND DISTRICT FARM WOMEN'S DAY (cont'd)

present day. Sessions include housing trends in the '90s, organic gardening and securing your financial future. Round table discussions run a broad range of personal, economic and social topics from marriage enrichment and disposable diapers to promoting farmers' markets and kids and sex. Registration is required by November 24. For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Edson at 723-8205.

WESTERN STOCK GROWERS' CONVENTION AND SHORT COURSE

The Western Stock Growers' Association (WSGA) will hold its 94th annual convention and 25th cattlemen's short course in Lethbridge December 12 through 14. Participants will spend two days at Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge research station touring the station and also hearing about a variety of research activities including: ultrasonic scanning of live animals backfat, ribeye area and marbling; evaluation, selection and management of herd sire; importance of rate of grain digestion; body condition and winter feed requirements; improving growth rate with naturally occurring hormones; biology and control of biting flies; cattle grub and horn fly management options; and, economic and policy factors affecting the profitability and future of the beef industry in western Canola. The WSGA annual meeting is on the final day. For more information about the convention program or registration contact the WSGA office in Calgary at 250-9121 or write 101, 2116-27 Avenue NE, Calgary, T2E 7A6.

FORAGE COMPRESSION PROJECT AT OLDS COLLEGE

The first Canadian company to export compacted forage to Japan has moved onto the Olds College campus as part of a joint research and development venture to produce compressed forage to meet demand from the Asian market. The facility will be known as the Olds Forage Centre. Olds College signed a five-year agreement with Olds Ag-Tech Industries earlier this spring and have built at $50,000 facility to house the

(Cont'd)

FORAGE COMPRESSION PROJECT AT OLDS COLLEGE (cont'd)

project. Ag-Tech will provide all of the equipment, staffing and purchase the forage from local hay producers. Research activities will include better hay storage and covering techniques, evaluation of oat straw and other varieties of forage, improved processing techniques and solving transportation problems. Instructors will use the facility in teaching agricultural engineering and agriculture production students

Ag-Tech first exported forage to Japan five years ago. Japan, the largest Asian market, imports forage as a fiber source to support its livestock operations. Long hay is favored for its ability to stimulate increased rumen digestion. Other markets are in Korea, Taiwan and the Middle East. Timothy and orchard grass hay varieties are purchased by Ag-Tech from throughout central Alberta. The hay is carefully checked for quack grass and visual appeal, and if isn't up to export standards it will be sold as feed to Olds College livestock operations.

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## Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **December, 1989 or January, February or March, 1990?**. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization/contact/telephone number):

---

Please return this form by November 22, 1989 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed December 4, 1989.)

# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
NOV 29 1989

November 13, 1989

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

# Agriculture minister leads trade mission to Mexico

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley recently returned from a highly successful agricultural trade mission to Mexico.

Isley led a delegation of 32 Alberta industry and government representatives on the week-long mission October 14 through 21.

The primary goal of the Alberta delegation in Mexico was to create increased export opportunities for Alberta agri-businesses. The mission furthered this aim by promoting goodwill toward Alberta's agricultural commodities and food products and by arranging direct contacts between Mexican and Alberta industry representatives.

"Mexico has become a very important market for Alberta's agriculture industry, particularly in the areas of livestock genetics and canola seed. What's exciting about Mexico, is that it has the potential to become an even larger market for Alberta agricultural products if we continue to pursue new sales opportunities aggressively. This recent mission was extremely helpful to our marketing efforts," says Isley.

While in Mexico, Alberta government and industry officials visited ranches and canola processing facilities and took part in a variety of promotional activities.

The major achievements of the mission included the signing of protocol agreements between Alberta and two more Mexican states: Durango and Zacatecas. Through the agreements, Mexico will buy Alberta livestock genetics and Alberta will provide technical seminars and consultation to Mexican livestock producers and establish a youth work exchange program.

Among the mission's high points was an "Alberta Night" held during the Confederacion Interamericana De Ganaderos (CIAGA) conference in Guadalajara. CIAGA is a major international livestock conference that attracts hundreds of North and South America's most important livestock breeders each year.

(Cont'd)

"Alberta Night" featured presentations by Edmonton Northlands and the Calgary Stampede, and was one of the highlights of this year's CIAGA conference. The evening was designed to encourage participation in next year's conference which will be held in Calgary.

"About 550 delegates attended the CIAGA conference in Guadalajara. If we could get that number of livestock breeders from South America up to Alberta for next year's event, it would definitely lead to increased sales of our province's livestock genetics," says Isley.

The Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) was one of the industry participants in the Mexico mission. Drew Mundie, ACABA president, played a key role in the mission's success. "The work done by government and private sector officials on this mission will, I am sure, have a very far-reaching, positive impact on Alberta's livestock sector. This has been a very sound investment in the future of our industry," says Mundie.

Gary Smith, president of Canadian Livestock International, was another of the industry representatives who took part in the Mexican mission. During the mission, companies like Canadian Livestock International, made major advances toward the sale of Alberta livestock genetics.

"The importance of ministerial trade missions such as this one to the marketing success of Alberta's agriculture industry shouldn't be underestimated. In countries such as Mexico, it's critical that our industry be able to demonstrate the Alberta government's support for our marketing efforts in order to succeed. This trade mission has opened doors in Mexico to Alberta agribusiness," says Smith.

In 1988 Alberta sales of agricultural products to Mexico totalled $37 million. In light of the success of the recent trade mission and other major marketing efforts, Alberta industry and government officials say they believe future sales to Mexico will increase steadily.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive assistant to the Minister
427-2137

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

EPD information aids beef production decisions

Alberta beef producers enrolled in the Federal-Provincial Beef Record of Performance (ROP) program can now make better assessments of their stock's potential value as a parent.

"Many Alberta beef producers have expressed an interest in Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's) in the last few years, and now there's an opportunity to use this type of evaluation in their herds," says Chuck Huedepohl, supervisor of beef cattle breeding and performance testing for Alberta Agriculture. The EPD calculations are now available for all animals in the ROP program that are 7/8 (88 per cent) purebred or better.

"EPD's, in the form of sire summaries, have been available in some segments of the beef industry since the early 1970's. Recent computer technology developments has made it possible to analyze more data and to do more complex calculations, making it possible to provide EPD assessment on individual animals in a breeder's herd," he says

An EPD is an assessment of a particular animal's value as a parent. The EPD predicts the amount of difference expected between the progeny of the animal and the progeny of an average animal of that breed. This is different from the traditional method of performance evaluation, an index relating the performance of an individual animal to its contemporaries.

EPD calculations include not only the performance of the individual animal but also available information on the performance of close relatives such as parents, full and half siblings and progeny. "By incorporating much more than the performance of the individual animal, the EPD calculation does a much better job of sorting out environmental effects, and so is much more accurate in its assessment of genetic worth," says Huedepohl. A 1986 study at the University of Georgia reported EPD's were three to ten times more accurate in predicting progeny performance than more common methods of index or actual gain performance evaluation.

(Cont'd)

Expanded EPD information aids beef production decisions (cont'd)

While the EPD calculation process is complicated, EPD's are easy to use. Through the ROP program, producers can get EPD values for calving ease, maternal contribution to calving ease, maternal milk, gain from birth to weaning and gain from birth to yearling.

"Once a producer decides the characteristics that are important to him in his operation, he can use EPD's to find the animal or animals that come closest to meeting his specifications," he says.

EPD values are expressed in weight units relative to the breed average. For example, a weaning weight EPD of plus 20 means average progeny from the animal would be 20 pounds heavier at weaning than the breed average.

Each EPD characteristic also has an accuracy rating. Accuracies above 0.8, or 80 per cent, are generally considered reliable. Those below 0.3, should be used with a caution. EPD's with accuracies between 0.3 and 0.8 give an indication of genetic merit, but may be subject to change as more data is added.

EPD's also allow easier comparison of an individual animal to a group or herd. Traditional methods of performance evaluation left the question of how to compare an animal with a given index from one herd with another animal with a similar performance advantage in another herd.

"Producers attempted to overcome this problem by sending animals to central test stations where their animals would be compared in an uniform environment," says Huedepohl. With EPD's, direct comparisons of animals between herds is possible.

Herd EPD information is provided by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with Agriculture Canada. For more information about the beef ROP program or EPD's, contact Huedepohl at the beef cattle and sheep branch in Edmonton at 427-5083.

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Contact: Chuck Huedepohl
427-5083

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

# Workshop teaches machinery electronics troubleshooting

With more and more electronics built into farm machinery, farmers require more sophisticated knowledge when it comes to understanding and repairing their machinery.

And now, Alberta Agriculture has a one-day hands-on workshop to help farmers troubleshoot their machinery electronics problems. The Farm Machinery Electronics Workshop has already been scheduled for 20 locations across the province during the fall and winter, says John Chang of the engineering services branch.

Not long ago, farmers sat on their tractor seats and knew when something was wrong by listening for different sounds. Today they are enclosed in relatively sound insulated cabs. "As a result, they've lost many of the sound clues they used to rely on. In any case, today's machinery is generally so much more complicated and larger that electronic monitor systems are almost a necessity," says Chang.

Electronic monitors keep tabs on engine temperature, shaft speeds, oil pressure, seed flow, grain bin levels and many other variables. Trouble comes for the farmer when one of the monitor systems fails, he says. Sometimes the farmer may even be uncertain whether the monitor is working properly, he adds.

"Whatever the problem, if it occurs in the middle of seeding or harvest, then there's a urgent need to get it corrected," he says.

A defective monitor is relatively rare. More often the problem is faulty wiring, a broken wire or a defective connector. The aim of the workshop is for the farmer to be able to quickly isolate the problem, fix it and be running again soon.

"Skills farmers learn in this workshop will enable them to solve some of these problems themselves for example, the faulty wiring and connectors. In other cases, they can work with their machinery dealer to get the problem corrected faster.

(Cont'd)

Workshop teaches machinery electronics troubleshooting (cont'd)

"In any case, the farmers will often be able to correct problems cheaper and faster, and they will get back to their field work sooner," Chang says.

The workshop was developed last winter by the engineering services branch with Lethbridge Community College. Different types of sensors and connectors are examined and hands-on practice is emphasized in the workshop. Participants are shown how to use an electric multimeter. The inexpensive tool is used to isolate and determine the nature of common problems with machinery electronics.

"By the end of the day, participants will have worked on actual examples of common wiring and monitor system problems and done the various tests for themselves," says Chang.

Farmers interested in participating in this workshop should contact their district Alberta Agriculture office.

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Contact: John Chang
427-2184

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

CARTT and Ducks Unlimited partners in conservation project

A Two Hills area soil conservation project will demonstrate the benefits of converting marginal land to both agricultural and wildlife habitat uses.

The Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) and Ducks Unlimited are partners in the Duvernay Uplands Management project.

"As well as increasing soil conservation awareness and demonstrating conversion of marginal non-productive cropland to perennial forage, the project emphasizes multiple land use," says Carol Bettac, regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

The Duvernay project has a wetlands and an uplands component. Ducks Unlimited will fund the wetlands part of the project. It involves an earthfill dam and water control structure to control water levels. Nesting structures for Canada geese and other waterfowl will be built.

The uplands portion of the project will be funded in co-operation with CARTT. The focus is on sandy erodible soil adjacent to the wetlands. "This land has traditionally been cropped, but production has fallen because of erosion degradation," says Bettac.

Perennial forages will be seeded in the area. Haying will be limited to one cutting between July 15 and August 15. "This provides uplands habitat for the waterfowl as well as providing the producer with the hay, integrating the needs of the wildlife and the farmer.

"CARTT is looking forward to working with Ducks Unlimited on co-operative soil conservation projects in the future," says Bettac.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
853-8109

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

# Pork slims down

Pork has a dubious reputation because some pork products tend to have high fat contents, but many cuts of pork are leaner than they were 25 years ago says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"Bacon, sausage, spareribs and hot dogs are high in fat content, but not all pork is the same," says Aileen Whitmore.

Changes in breeding and feeding hogs are responsible for the new leanness. The result, she says, is that some pork cuts compare favorably with other meats. For example, 90 grams of broiled center loin has 63 calories with 18 grams of fat accounting for 27 per cent of the total calories. The same amount of roasted pork tenderloin has 148 calories and four grams of fat accounting for 22 per cent of the calories. Cured ham has 128 calories with 35 per cent of those calories from its five grams of fat. In comparison, the same amount of roasted chicken breast without the skin has 142 calories with 19 per cent of the calories from its three grams of fat. The same size portion of broiled sirloin steak has 163 calories with six grams of fat accounting for 33 per cent of the calories.

"This means that if you are watching calories and fat intake, that pork doesn't have to be taken out of your diet," she says.

"Pork also has some other important pluses," she adds. "The fat in pork is slightly less saturated than fat in beef. It's also an excellent source of B vitamins (especially thiamin), zinc, iron and high quality protein."

Whitmore also has a few tips for choosing and preparing lean pork. "Start by picking lean cuts such as tenderloin, center loin, fresh pork leg or lean ham. Fattier cuts of pork--ribs, loin blade and shoulder--and processed pork-based meats such as sausage and bacon are still the most popular fare, but may be hard to justify when you're on a heart-healthy diet," she says.

(Cont'd)

Pork slims down (cont'd)

Limiting portion size cuts down on cholesterol intake. "Pork, like all meats and poultry, contains 20 to 25 milligrams of cholesterol per ounce--whether it's lean or fatty. A two or three ounce (60 to 90 gram) portion is adequate nutritionally and doesn't have excess cholesterol," she says, adding, "And meats can go a long way in kabobs, sautes and oriental stir-fry dishes."

Trimming all visible fat before cooking also reduces excess fats, their calories and cholesterol.

"Some people have said leaner pork doesn't seem to be as tasty and or is drier. To keep lean meat moist, tender and flavorful, try a marinade," says Whitmore. She suggests fruit juice, honey, wine or sherry. As well, she says, try seasonings such as thyme, ginger, rosemary, mint, garlic, fennel seed or oregano.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta 4-H members and leaders attend national conferences

Six Alberta 4-H delegates and five Alberta 4-H leaders spent part of National 4-H Week in Toronto at national conferences.

Trevor Crisp, of Monitor, Jeannette Fawcett, of Consort, Loretta Knowles, of Byemoor, Louanna MacLeod, of Stavely, Shelley Vanden Dungen, of Vauxhall, and Shelly Meakin, of Morinville, represented Alberta at the National 4-H Conference.

Delegates participated in workshops and group discussions as well as attending the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and visiting points of interest around Toronto and area.

This year's conference theme was "4-H--Building for Tomorrow". The Canadian 4-H Council sponsored event has six delegates from each province, six delegates from the United States and five from the United Kingdom.

Alberta's member delegates were chosen last spring at Provincial 4-H Selections. Trips are awarded based on the members' 4-H activities, achievements and contributions to their clubs and communities.

Five Alberta 4-H leaders attended the National 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference. They were: Andrea Babiuk, Brosseau; Grant Cossey, St. Michael; Maria Kujala, Eckville; Vern Schneider, Bow Island; and Carole Tkach, Coronation. Part of the leaders conference program is integrated with the National 4-H Conference.

Also travelling with the Alberta delegation were Nigel Symes, a Shell 4-H United Kingdom Exchange delegate from England and Tammy Baker, a Manitoba conference delegate currently attending Lakeland College in Vermilion.

All the delegates were honored at the 42nd annual send-off banquet sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool in Edmonton November 7. Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan was a special guest at the banquet. National 4-H Week was November 6 through 12.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

N.E. 4-H Council makes presentation to 4-H Centre

Mixing batches of muffins and morning pancakes will be a lot easier at the Alberta 4-H Lake Centre thanks to a donation from one of the province's regional 4-H councils.

The Northeast Regional 4-H Council recently donated an industrial mix master with a food processing unit to the Centre. From left to right above are: Allan Shenfield, a 4-H Foundation of Alberta director; John McKechnie and Adele Reichert, the site managers; and Dorine Kuzma, the regional council's president.

"The Northeast Regional 4-H Council feels the Centre is a valuable asset to Alberta's 4-H activities and wanted to show it was aware of the Centre's ongoing needs," says Yvonne Love, north east regional 4-H specialist. The Council also hopes its donation will challenge other regional councils to contribute something to the Centre, she adds.

The Alberta 4-H Centre is located 35 miles west of Wetaskiwin on the shore of Battle Lake. It is owned and operated by the 4-H Foundation of Alberta. As well as being headquarters for a number of 4-H activities, the Centre is also available for rent by any other Alberta group or association.

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Contact: Yvonne Love
853-8109

Adele Riechert
682-2153

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The following is the first article in a seven-part series on farm business management planning prepared by Craig Edwards, Alberta Agriculture production management specialist.

The series deals with some of the factors farmers and farm managers should consider in developing their own farm business management plans.

Ideally, the series should run sequentially from part 1 to 7, but if space or scheduling becomes a problem, each article can stand alone. If not used as a series, some articles may need some minor editing.

The articles vary in length. Part 1 is the longest at about 700 words or about 18 column inches, while most of the other instalments are about 300 words each or about eight column inches.

Topics covered over the seven weeks include:

Part 1 - Farm planning is a creative process

Part 2 - Procedures for planning

Part 3 - Economic principles used in farm planning

Part 4 - Making production decisions

Part 5 - Fertilizer economics

Part 6 - It's not too early for crop planning

Part 7 - Getting more bang from your bucks

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

Farm business planning is a creative process

(First in a series)

Although it may sound simple, farm planning is really the cornerstone of making any farm or ranch operation a success, says an Alberta Agriculture economist.

"Planning is the foundation for all important farming activities," says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "And, yet many people don't appreciate what planning can do for them.

"Many farmers are not aware of the study or discipline of farm business management so they don't realize that important principles, tools and methods are available to help them make choices and decisions with the highest probability of success."

He adds planning is not a dull, stodgy exercise in futility, but an important and lively part of management. "At its best, it requires the highest degree of creativity from the manager and other contributors to the planning process. Innovative and entrepreneurial skills contribute more alternatives for consideration."

The specialist says farm planning primarily is making choices and decisions. "In other words, selecting the most profitable alternative," he says.

Planning is the most basic management function: deciding on a course of action and then doing what was planned. This requires acquiring and organizing necessary resources from financing to labor.

"Using recommended planning tools and methods is a continuous process, not something you do on a stormy day and then forget," says the economist. "The plan itself will be changed as the manager, or planner, gets new information from continuous observation and analysis as the plan is implemented.

(Cont'd)

Farm business planning is a creative process (cont'd)

"The important ingredient is not 'the plan', but the planning process of informed thinking and decision making using established economic principles. The planning process provides a systematic and organized procedure that simplifies making choices and decisions."

Even the best planning methods skillfully applied can't guarantee success, but it certainly improves the odds of achieving success, he says. As well, he says, planning should be done by all the people affected by the plan, not just the manager.

"On the family farm all the family members and employees should take part and contribute to planning. It will benefit the attitude, behavior and understanding of the group," says Edwards. "It's also an opportunity to learn the planning process. Management skills, as well as production skills, can be learned from experienced members of the farm family for better future management."

Most farm businesses could benefit from better farm planning, Edwards says. One of the best ways for farmers to learn how to plan is through a Gear Up Advantage course, he adds. Farmers should check with the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office to register for the course.

Another way to learn planning methods is to study a good farm management text book or even a business text book. Good basic information is also available in a farm planning package prepared by Edwards. The series of articles includes: production planning procedures; economic principles used in farm planning; making production decisions; fertilizer economics; planning with crop choice worksheets; and, how to use operating capital.

Farmers who want the farm planning package should write or phone Craig Edwards at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0 or call 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

November 13, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

4-H MEMBERS COMPETE IN DENVER JUDGING COMPETITION

A four-member judging team of Alberta 4-Hers competed at the 71st annual Western 4-H Roundup in Denver, Colorado October 26 through 29. Team members were: Janice Davey, Mayerthorpe; Kari Griffith, Balzac; Carmen Smith, Coaldale; and, Allan Crawford, Irma. The Alberta team was the only Canadian entry in the judging competition. The 17 other teams were mostly from the western U.S., but included teams from Florida and Hawaii. Participants judged ten classes of livestock and a lot of emphasis was placed on oral reason presentations. The team competition was won by Colorado. "Our team didn't place in the top five but all of the team members thought they had a great learning experience," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. The event also included educational tours and workshops. For more information contact Wiegman at 427-2541.

RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE IN LETHBRIDGE

Lethbridge will host a southern Alberta rural issues conference November 27 through 29. Topics up for discussion at the Future Harvests Conference include rural diversification, farm stress, environmental issues, future economics of farming and rural entrepreneurs. The conference features four mini-sessions with a kick-off keynote address with Vancouver futurist and entrepreneur Dan Stamp discussing coping with the future. Mini-session topics include: organizing the farm business and transferring the farm, community diversification, the changing pattern of community living, on-farm diversification, food safety, water management in southern Alberta, the impact of technology, the value of farm women in agriculture and the future of agricultural education. The conference is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge Community College, the University of Lethbridge faculty of management, the City of Lethbridge agriculture community and Women of

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE IN LETHBRIDGE (cont'd)

Unifarm. Pre-registration is encouraged. Participants can take part in the entire conference for $75 or $25 for any one of the half-day mini-sessions. Further information is available by contacting the Alberta Agriculture district office in Lethbridge at 381-5237 or Lethbridge Community College at 329-7222.

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NOV 29 1980

AGRI-NEWS SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE:

Mailed with this week's Agri-News is an information newsletter that discusses the pay-the-producer alternative of paying the Crow Benefit. The newsletter has also been mailed to all rural Alberta households.

Recently a joint Alberta-British Columbia Task Force on the method of payment issue released a discussion paper proposing a pay-the-producers system for Alberta and British Columbia. The newsletter outlines some potential effects of this approach. As Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley notes in this newsletter, the Government of Alberta hasn't taken an official position on the proposal and is calling for ideas and opinions from the province's farmers.

# AGRI-NEWS

November 20, 1989

For immediate release

This Week


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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

# 1990 should be another good year for fed cattle

A tight American beef supply points to 1990 being another good year for fed cattle prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Prices will be particularly good during the first half of the year, but price prospects for all classes are less positive for mid-year and beyond," says Ron Gietz in the quarterly Livestock Situation and Outlook.

With the Canadian-American exchange rate staying at a 85 cent U.S. level, Gietz says the Alberta outlook for direct sale slaughter steer prices is for a $80 to $84/cwt. range for the rest of the fourth quarter.

"The lowest prices for A-grade steers is expected in late December with prices improving steadily during the first quarter of the new decade. A price peak in the upper $80 range is expected in March or early April, with increasing supplies of fed calves lowering the prices through the second quarter," he says.

In the short-term feeder cattle prices will be up slightly with quality a key consideration with buyers. Feeder steers in the 800 to 900 lb. range will likely trade slightly higher than present levels in the first quarter at $90 to $95/cwt.

"In the longer term, the Canadian feeder cattle and replacement stock price trend is down. Although it's too far in the future to reliably predict, producers projecting returns from cow/calf operations next year should pencil in market prices five to 10 per cent below 1988 levels, with a 50 per cent chance of a payout from the national cow/calf tripartite program," he says.

Three noteworthy trends in Canadian beef production during the first nine months of 1989 continued in the July to September third quarter. Cow slaughter volumes were up 11 per cent over 1988, heifer slaughter declined five per cent and total beef production is up two per cent.

"Alberta continues to lead the way in the Canadian beef industry, with steady and substantial increases in the production of all slaughter classes except heifers," he says.

(Cont'd)

1990 should be another good year for fed cattle (cont'd)

Inspected steer slaughter for the third quarter was the highest third quarter total ever. The 205,776 head total was up seven per cent from 1988. Slaughter cattle exports for 1989 to date have remained near the record volumes of 1988. Increased fed cattle production reflects steady increases in cattle feeding activity in the province in recent years, he says.

"Feedlot operators appear to have learned a lesson from the summer of 1988 when cattle were held back in hopes of a price rally that never came. Provincial marketings of fed cattle during the third quarter were very steady and an inventory of overfed cattle never accumulated," says Gietz.

Quality was also good this summer, he says. "For their money, Alberta packers in 1989 bought the highest quality summer cattle ever produced in the province."

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Contact: Ron Gietz
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November 20, 1989
For immediate release

# Higher lamb prices in December

Good domestic demand for lamb in Alberta and Western Canada is expected to lend support to Alberta slaughter lamb prices, despite price declines in the United States and Eastern Canada says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Alberta slaughter lamb prices are expected to remain steady until December, when supplies of slaughter lambs are expected to decline and prices to rise," says Jo Ann Cmoluch in a quarterly situation and outlook report.

Cmoluch predicts the Lambco bid range in the final three months of 1989 to range between $70 and $73/cwt. First quarter 1990 prices are predicted to be slightly higher at $75 to $78/cwt.

Second quarter live lamb prices declined steadily through July and August. The average bid range for market lambs at Lambco in Innisfail was $75 to $78/cwt. in July falling to $69 to $72/cwt. in August. After mid-September signs of strengthening, prices declined to a month end low of $67 to $70. Alberta prices have generally declined following normal seasonal trends.

Canadian federally and provincially inspected sheep and lamb slaughter numbers continued to be up sharply with a 13.5 per cent increase over the same period in 1988. The Alberta lamb slaughter is up just over 11 per cent, or 6,000 head, over last year.

"Lambco continues to have a five week backlog of slaughter lamb bookings. It appears that Alberta lamb producers have managed to even out their production patterns, since the quality of lambs being marketed for slaughter has remained high," she says.

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Contact: Jo Ann Cmoluch
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November 20, 1989
For immediate release

# Increased demand improves hog prices

The outlook for slaughter hog prices has improved considerably over the last quarter, but not because of any unexpected supply shifts says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Higher demand for slaughter hogs, and not declining supplies, has improved prices. Improved demand has come from higher U.S. pork exports, as well as improved U.S. packer margins," says Ron Gietz in the quarterly Livestock Situation and Outlook.

The Alberta outlook is for hog prices to continue to run well above year-ago levels for the remainder of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990. "Index 100 producer payment prices are expected to reach a low around $1.25/kg in December, before strengthening to around $1.30/kg or $59/cwt. early in the new year. First quarter prices will range between $1.30 and $1.40/kg," he says. Canadian slaughter hog prices should all be well above 1989 levels and only minor payments are anticipated from the national tripartite stabilization program in the first two quarters of the new year, he adds.

Canadian hog production is beginning to moderate after more than three years of steady growth. "A decline in hog production in the third quarter from the second quarter is contrary to normal seasonal trends in Canada and a good indication that the recent cycle of increasing hog output in Canada may be broken for now," says Gietz.

In Western Canada, particularly in Alberta and Manitoba, slaughter hog production continues to run well above year-ago levels, although it's showing signs of moderating. Alberta's production, while down from the previous quarter, was still eight per cent above 1988 third quarter levels.

Slaughter hog prices increased in all North American markets during the third quarter in response to both reduced pork output and favorable developments on the demand side.

(Cont'd)

Increased demand improves hog prices (cont'd)

The average Alberta producer payment price for Index 100 hogs in the third quarter was $1.367/kg ($61.99/cwt.). That was 11 per cent higher than the average for the previous quarter and eight per cent higher than prices a year ago.

"These stronger producer payments can be attributed to a stronger American hog slaughter market and more slaughter in Alberta in 1989. Last year's strike at Fletcher's packing plant in Red Deer halved provincial hog slaughter capacity and reduced net returns to Alberta producers," he says.

Developments in the pork and hog countervailing duty cases continued in the third quarter. "The countervailing duty has altered trade patterns between Canada and the U.S.," he says. "Preliminary trade data indicate exports of fresh, chilled and frozen pork to the U.S. dropped 16 per cent in the third quarter of this year, compared to the same period in 1988. A 42 per cent increase in live hog exports during the third quarter compensated almost completely for the reduced pork exports, and increased exports of processed pork during the quarter resulted in more Canadian hog production moving into the U.S. in the third quarter of 1989 than the third quarter of 1988."

Canada's balance of trade in fresh, chilled and frozen pork for the third quarter was unchanged from 1988. Reduced exports to the U.S. were offset by a sharp increase in pork exports to Japan.

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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

# Canola prices to improve over winter

Starting in December, Alberta canola prices should begin to improve with both higher futures prices and narrower basis levels forecasts an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Charlie Pearson predicts Alberta canola prices to be in the $275 to $295 per tonne range over the winter. "This improvement reflects a much tighter supply-demand balance from this year's smaller canola crop," he says in a quarterly oilseed situation and outlook.

Statistics Canada currently estimates Canadian canola production at 3.2 million tonnes, 27 per cent lower than the 4.3 million tonnes produced in 1988. Fewer seeded acres and average yields eight per cent lower than in 1988 account for the decreased production.

"The implication of this size of canola crop will be either a substantial reduction in the July 31, 1990 carryover or a reduction in canola disappearance. Much of this will depend on the steadiness of farm deliveries during the year," he says.

Canola exports are forecast to be two million tonnes, similar to the 1988-89 export total. Declines in exports to Japan and Mexico are expected to be offset by increasing exports to the U.S.

Internationally, Pearson says, there is more potential for vegetable oil prices to improve than meal prices. "Given canola has a higher oil content than soybeans, canola prices are expected to increase more than soybeans."

Flaxseed prices will also be high through the winter he says. "Tight supplies will hold Winnipeg futures contract prices in the $320 to $350/tonne range during the coming winter. Assuming improved conditions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, flaxseed prices are then expected to decline during the spring.

"Producers are encouraged to market flax through the winter. A long futures position will provide the best mechanism to take advantage of any potential drought related spring rally."

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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November 20, 1989
For immediate release

# World wheat market still tight

A tighter 1989-90 world wheat supply-demand balance will return international wheat prices to 1988-89 levels says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"World wheat production is near a record level at 530 million tonnes and world wheat consumption is currently estimated at a record 538 million tonnes by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)," says Charlie Pearson. A stocks use ratio of 20 per cent is an indicator of the tightest world wheat supplies in the last 30 years, he adds.

This fall international wheat prices have declined in spite of the tighter world supply-demand balance he says. "International wheat prices offered to countries identified by either the U.S. or the European Community (EC) for export subsidies are currently about $180 per tonne, very similar to price levels this spring," he says.

Pearson says the most likely Alberta price scenario, given the tight world wheat supply-demand balance, is for world wheat prices to return to 1988-89 levels or 10 per cent higher than current levels. "This would result in a combined adjustment/final payment in the $40 to $50 per tonne range or an Alberta based total payment in the $177 to $187 per tonne range for 1 CW red spring wheat.

"If international prices remain at current levels despite the tight balance, the total payments would more likely be between $157 to $167 per tonne," he says

With a less optimistic 1989-90 outlook for international durum wheat prices, total payments to Alberta farmers will be more in line with hard red spring wheat prices compared to premium payments in the previous crop year. With a 10 per cent increase in international wheat prices over the winter, Pearson predicts an Alberta based payment for 1 Amber Durum at about $177 per tonne.

(Cont'd)

World wheat market still tight (cont'd)

Canadian 1989 wheat production is estimated by Statistics Canada at 24 million tonnes, a 50 per cent increase from the 16 million tonne crop produced in 1988. The larger crop is a result of a five per cent increase in harvested acreage and a 43 per cent increase in average wheat yields.

"Increased Prairie wheat supplies will allow a larger 1989-90 Canadian Wheat Board export program than during the past year. Wheat export volumes are expected to increase through the winter," he says. Canadian wheat exports are forecast to be 17 million tonnes, up 4.5 million tonnes from 1988-89.

Domestic wheat usage is also expected to increase in the coming year. Food, seed and industrial wheat use will remain at about 3.5 million tonnes. Increased amounts of feed wheat will be used in livestock rations reflecting the poorer quality of this year's crop. Pearson estimated total domestic use at 6.3 million tonnes.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

# Barley exports forecast to rise

Canadian 1989-90 barley exports are forecast to reach four million tonnes, up 1.2 million tonnes from the previous year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Increased exports would drop the July 31, 1990 carryover to 2.5 million tonnes, 10 per cent lower than the previous crop year's," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly coarse grain situation and outlook.

World coarse grain carryovers are also predicted to decline. The 135 million tonne forecast is down 10 per cent from 1988-89. The stock use ratio of 16.6 per cent is the tightest world coarse grain carryover since 1983-84 says Pearson.

Alberta-based Canadian Wheat Board barley initial barley payments are currently $80 per tonne for 1 CW feed barley and $125 per tonne for special select two-row barley. Pearson forecasts select barley final payments in the $40 to $50 per tonne range, an additional $10 to $15 final payment for 1 CW feed barley and non-board barley prices in the $85 to $95 per tonne range. Local feed barley prices this winter are expected to range between $90 to $115 per tonne. Southern Alberta prices are higher than in central or northern Alberta.

Total Canadian oat exports are forecast to be down 270,000 tonnes from the 720,000 tonnes of 1988-89. However, Canadian oat exports during the first 12 weeks of the crop year were over 165 per cent higher than the same period in 1988-89. "Large sales volumes at the beginning of the crop year reflected the large number of contracts entered into by grain companies in the spring and the Canadian Wheat Board selling off the last of its oat inventory," Pearson says.

Select oats are forecast to maintain a $15 to $20 per tonne premium to feed oats, holding at a $90 to $110 per tonne range.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

Farm Weather Line expands and continues through winter

Alberta Agriculture's Farm Weather Line has expanded to new locations and will continue to operate through the winter.

"Producers now have even greater access to the most current farm weather forecast information with the addition of Coronation and Medicine Hat to the network," says Peter Dzikowski, weather resource specialist with the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. The Coronation line began operating on October 1 and the Medicine Hat line started at the end of that month.

As well, all six of the lines will operate through the winter for the first time. "This year-round operation is an experiment to see if the lines will be as well used through the winter months as they are through the spring, summer and fall," he says.

More than 136,000 calls were made to the regional lines between April and October during their fifth season of operation. The number of calls in 1989 increased by 35 per cent over the previous year.

The Farm Weather Line began in 1985 with regional lines in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service co-operate to provide telephone access and up-to-date weather forecasts.

Forecasts specific to each region are updated four times daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The lines aren't toll-free and long distance changes apply if calls are made from outside the local calling area.

The six Farm Weather Lines are: Grande Prairie, 539-7654; Edmonton, 468-9196; Calgary, 295-1003; Lethbridge, 328-RAIN (7246); Coronation, 57T-EMPS (578-3677); and, Medicine Hat, 526-6224. **(Editor's note: A map is attached outlining the area each regional number covers)**

For more information contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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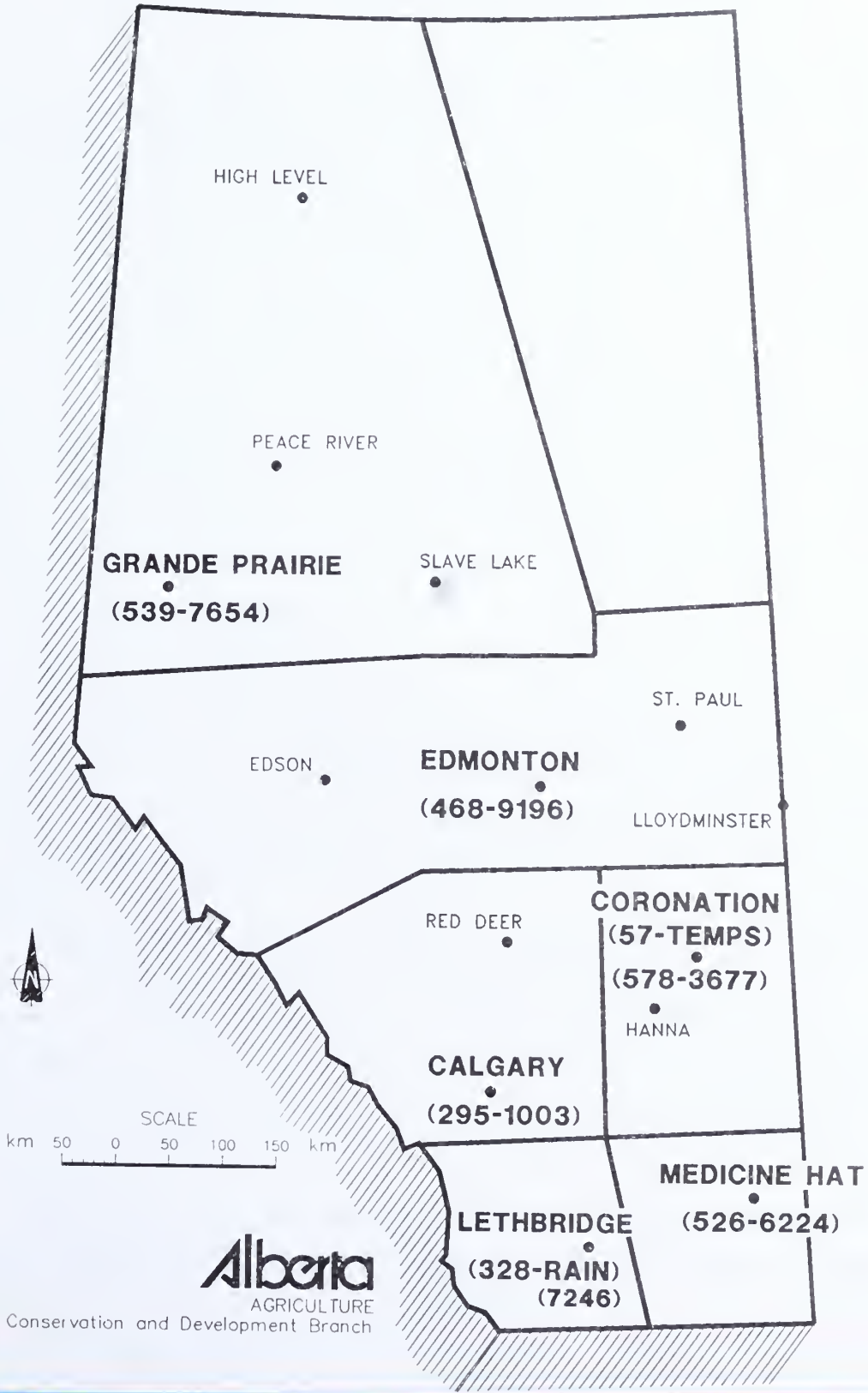
Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

# FARM WEATHER LINE OPERATIONAL AREAS




AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

4-Hers compete at 3rd annual provincial judging clinic

The top 13 Alberta 4-H club member judges earned trips further afield to three high caliber competitions at the third annual provincial judging clinic and competition.

Westlock area 4-Her Debbie Dick, of the Sunnibend Beef Club, placed first in the competition. She will use her skills at the Denver Western National Stock Show in January, 1990. The Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) sponsors this trip for Alberta's top 4-H judge.

Off to Canadian Western Agribition in Regina at the end of this month are: Rusty Cox, Armena Beef Club, Camrose; Brad Fournier, Armena Beef Club, Wetaskiwin; Susan Knight, Chestermere Beef Club, Calgary; Kim Nousek, Fort Saskatchewan Beef Club, Fort Saskatchewan; Brian Davies, Vermilion Light Horse Club, Dewberry; Karrie Werenka, Sangudo Beef Club, Sangudo; Kirk Wildman, Sangudo Beef Club, Sangudo; and, Kim Buzak, Bon Accord Beef Club, Edmonton.

Representing Alberta at the October, 1990 Western 4-H Round-up judging competition in Denver will be: Shelly Meakin, Double Diamond Multi Club, Morinville; Sherry Pfannmuller, Mayerthorpe Beef Club, Mayerthorpe; Michele Porter, Spruce Grove Beef Club, Duffield; and, Stacey Sellers, Birch Lake Bits 'N Spurs, Innisfree. These two trips are sponsored by Uniblok Canada, a division of Superior Feeds in Rockyford, Alberta.

Seventy-five of Alberta's best 4-H member judges participated at the third annual Provincial Multi Species 4-H Judging Clinic and Competition November 3 through 5 at Edmonton Northlands.

"Interest in this event has grown every year," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. "I believe 4-H member interest is a reflection of general industry commitment to better breeding and production."

Participants, who are chosen at regional judging competitions, first learned more about how to judge and livestock industry standards.

(Cont'd)

4-Hers compete at 3rd annual provincial judging clinic (cont'd)

The final part of the event was the judging competition. The young judges inspected beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep and light horses. They were evaluated on the oral and written reasons they used to place each livestock class.

The clinic and competition are sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches in co-operation with Edmonton Northlands during Northlands Farmfair.

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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

Procedures for planning
(Second in a series)

Running a farm without some kind of planning is like trying to dance in snowshoes says an Alberta Agriculture farm business management economist.

"It lacks style, requires extra work and no one, including yourself, is sure of the next step," says Craig Edwards of the farm business management branch in Olds.

Planning often seems to be one of those abstract terms that falls into that nice-but-not-necessary category, he says. "But for a farmer, planning is just as vital as knowing how grain grows or how to put pounds on a calf."

Farm planning involves setting goals and then developing a plan to achieve those goals. If there isn't a plan of some kind, then farmers wouldn't be able to accomplish much.

"With a lot of random stop-and-go decisions, the farming operation would be less productive," he says.

"Most farmers, and farm families, have some kind of plan or plans, even if they don't write them down. Although the plan has been created and exists in the farmer's mind, plans are far more useful when written on paper," says the specialist.

When the plan is written out, farmers and family, partners and others concerned with the operation have an opportunity to understand and contribute to the planning procedure.

"A written plan is an outline or sketch of the organization of the available resources and their use in the future. It can be very simple and even skimpy. Ideally, it should be detailed enough to include operating costs and returns for each enterprise on the farm. Developed as a whole farm budget, the plan could be used as a map for the organization and operation of the farm's physical and financial resources," Edwards says.

(Cont'd)

Procedures for planning (cont'd)

Alberta farmers wanting to learn more about farm planning can attend courses such as the Alberta Agriculture program "Gear Up Advantage". Registration information is available from any Alberta Agriculture district office.

Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists and regional economists can provide assistance with farm planning. As well, the farm business management branch can provide a farm planning package as learning material for interested farmers.

This material is available by writing to Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, or by phoning 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture Appointments

FAIRVIEW HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Direct contact with farmers is a major reason why Jim Proctor has returned to Alberta Agriculture as Fairview's district agriculturist. "Best job I ever had," Proctor says of being a district agriculturist, "I like working with farmers and I like rural communities." Proctor worked as a district agriculturist in both Barrhead and Sedgewick. No stranger to the Peace Country, he was raised on a farm near Fairview and returned there with his wife and family in 1975. For the last two years Proctor has been an agricultural instructor at Fairview College. He was one of three instructors who accompanied a group of students to the Soviet Union in April, 1989. Proctor has also been an agrologist with the Royal Bank and regional economist in the Peace region for Alberta Agriculture. He can be contacted in Fairview at 835-2241.

JIM PROCTOR

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN DRUMHELLER

Donald Poisson is Alberta Agriculture's new district agriculturist in Drumheller. For the last two years Poisson worked in fertilizer sales and management with Redi-Go Farm Services in Crossfield. He also did some general agricultural consulting. Poisson is a 1986 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan bachelor of science in agriculture program. After graduation, he worked in Prince Albert as a credit advisor for the Farm Credit Corporation. He is originally from Shaunavon, Saskatchewan and grew up on a grain and cattle farm near the southwestern Saskatchewan community. Poisson can be reached in Drumheller at 823-5740.



AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 20, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

ALBERTA DAY AT AGRIBITION

Sunday November 26 is "Alberta Day" at the International Business Centre, one of the attractions at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina November 25 through December 1. Among the special day's sponsors is Alberta Agriculture. Agribition has become known as an international marketplace and provides an opportunity for Alberta visitors to buy, sell or just look at some of the best livestock and crops in the world. Nearly 30,000 Albertans attended last year's Agribition. Agribition is now one of the top six agricultural shows in the world. As well as livestock shows and sales, the 19th annual show also includes a nightly rodeo, a western lifestyles showcase, an agri-ed showcase and a trade and technology show. For information on accommodation, show times or a copy of schedule contact the Western Canadian Agribition, Box 3535, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3J8, or call (306)565-0565.

CFFA CONVENTION IN NISKU NOVEMBER 29 AND 30

Regenerative agriculture is the theme of the Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta (CFFA) convention November 29 and 30 in Nisku. Dean Fredudenberger, a Christian ethics professor at the Claremont, California, School of Theology and an acknowledged regenerative agriculture expert, is the keynote speaker. "The word regenerative refers to the idea that, in the 21st century agriculture will regenerate, not just sustain, its resource base of soil, water plant and animal life," he says. For more information on the conference, contact the CFFA office in Edmonton at 428-6981.

BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Alberta Beekeepers Association is holding its annual meeting in Edmonton November 30 and December 1 at the Mayfield Hotel. Among the agenda topics are promotional activities across the country, a Saskatchewan beekeepers experiments with overwintering in and out-of-doors and an update on the tracheal mite. For more information, contact Gertie Adair at 468-6949.

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# AGRI-NEWS

DEC 30 1989

November 27, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

# Alberta Terminals Limited offered for sale

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced the Alberta government will entertain bids from interested qualified buyers for Alberta Terminals Limited (ATL).

ATL is a private company, wholly owned by the Government of Alberta. The company owns and operates four grain handling and storage facilities located in Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton and High Level.

ATL also owns Alberta Terminals Canola Crushers Limited (ATCCL). Isley says that ATCCL isn't in the package that is being offered for sale.

ATL was created in 1979 to own and operate three inland terminals purchased from the Government of Canada. The company has successfully met the Government of Alberta's objectives in purchasing the terminals by providing farmers with continued access to these high volume facilities and by providing an alternative, competitive market outlet for Alberta grains. ATL elevators are licensed as primary elevators. The company is a country buying agent and an accredited export agent for the Canadian Wheat Board.

"Privatization will significantly increase the opportunities for ATL and its employees to contribute further to improvement in the grain transportation, handling and storage system serving Alberta farmers. In the sale process, the Government of Alberta is seeking bids which show intent to operate the elevators on a commercially viable basis and in a manner that will reduce system costs and provide effective competition. It is a unique and challenging opportunity for aggressive grain-oriented interests to position themselves to take maximum advantage of industry changes," says Isley.

Isley notes that although ATCCL isn't part of the ATL sale package, the Alberta government is open to discussion with private sector firms interested in purchasing ATCCL.

(Cont'd)

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Terminals Limited offered for sale (cont'd)

The deadline for receipt of bids on Alberta Terminals Limited is January 31, 1990. Details on the bidding process can be obtained by writing to: Mr. G.B. Parlby, Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, #301, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or FAX (403)422-6317. Parbly can also be contacted by firms interested in purchasing ATCCL, for purposes of referral.

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Contact: C.D. Radke
Assistant deputy minister
Planning and development
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Brad Klak
Executive assistant
to the Minister
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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

# Vaccination part of herd management

Autumn is an important time of the year for making herd management decisions and one of those decisions is whether and what for producers should vaccinate their cattle says an Alberta Agriculture beef cattle veterinarian.

"Most producers wean and market calves in the fall. They pregnancy test cows and cull less productive animals. Many analyze their feed's quality and evaluate their production records. A major question is what they should vaccinate their cows against at this time of year," says Dr. Casey Schipper.

He recommends vaccinating herds against clostridial diseases, a group of bacterial diseases that includes blackleg, malignant edema, tetanus and enterotoxemia. "These diseases have the potential to kill non-immune cattle. Young calves are usually pasture vaccinated once in the spring and again when they are selected as replacement breeding stock or enter the feedlot in the fall," he says.

Vaccine-induced immunity is long lasting if properly administered. As well as protecting vaccinated cows, antibodies secreted in colostrum--first milk--are believed to be effective in preventing tetanus, enterotoxemia and blackleg in very young calves between birth and their first vaccine dose.

"Considering the low cost of the vaccine and the high cost of animal death, it would be well worth vaccinating the entire cow herd once every two years," he says.

While bovine virus diarrhea (BVD) is another common problem, Schipper says it doesn't make a lot of sense to vaccinate pregnant cows against BVD at this time of year. "Vaccination won't correct damage if a non-immune pregnant cow was exposed to the BVD virus during the summer. Late calving cows may possibly benefit from vaccinating with a kill vaccine, but otherwise it's like buying life insurance after a person's death."

(Cont'd)

Vaccination part of herd management (cont'd)

"Fortunately many cows in Alberta herds carry serum antibodies to BVD from natural exposure or previous vaccination and their unborn calves should be safe," he says. The BVD virus can cause cow reproductive failure including abortion and fetal damage causing weak or malformed calves. The virus can also wreck the fetal immune system.

The best time to vaccinate is in the spring when cows are open, at least three weeks before bulls are turned out. "In the spring, a modified-live vaccine could be used without endangering a fetus. These types of vaccine aren't expensive and provide good immunity," he says.

Another virus associated with reproductive failure is infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR). "The best time to vaccinate cow herds against IBR is before breeding," Schipper says. Using IBR vaccines is justified because disease outbreaks are common and unpredictable.

"If pregnant cows must be vaccinated because they weren't done while open, the intranasal vaccine appears to be safe and provides rapid and effective protection in pregnant cattle. Care must be used to ensure the full dose of vaccine really goes into the nostril as the cow inhales," he says. Killed IBR vaccines are generally safe in pregnant cows, but their effectiveness hasn't been proven in controlled field trials, he says.

He also has a note of caution. "Modified-live vaccines administered intramuscularly to pregnant animals may cause abortions rather than prevent them. Using a modified-live BVD vaccine in persistently infected BVD-carrier cows may result in death."

Western Canadian producers rarely encounter the bacterial urinary tract infection, leptospirosis, known as LEPTO. "Vaccination is probably unnecessary because of low risk. Economically, it should only be considered where this disease is commonly recognized," he says. The disease is more common in hot humid climates with alkaline soils and an abundance of wildlife and surface water. It can cause late pregnancy abortions.

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Contact: Dr. Casey Schipper
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November 27, 1989
For immediate release

# Four methods control cattle grubs

Four treatment methods cattlemen use in a warble grub control program also help control other livestock parasites says an Alberta Agriculture livestock entomologist.

Pour-on, spot application, injectable and high pressure methods of applying systemic insecticides in the fall effectively control warble grubs says Ali Khan.

"One of the other advantages of warble control treatments is that these chemicals also suppress cattle lice populations. About 67 per cent less lice have been observed on treated animals," says Khan. "Cattlemen regularly treating herds for warbles know treatments are preventing their animals from becoming heavily infested with lice."

Cattle grubs are the larval stages of warble flies generally known as the common cattle grub and the northern cattle grub. These two species injure cattle in many ways causing losses to the cattle industry.

Infestations of lice can also reduce the market value of cattle and reduce weight gains in feeder cattle. Heavy infestations can increase abortion frequency, reduce weaning weights and even reduce a bull's breeding ability.

In Alberta, where an effective warble control program has operated since 1969, the number of warbles found on slaughter cattle has dropped dramatically in the last decade.

Khan says although less than two per cent of the carcasses checked at packing plants in Alberta show any signs of warbles, it's important to continue efforts to control the insect.

For further information on treating warble and lice problems, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or a local agricultural service board fieldman.

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Contact: Ali Khan
427-5083

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

# Egg cholesterol lower than thought

While we're not any closer to whether the chicken or the egg came first, a recent study has found eggs have less cholesterol than previously believed.

The study, conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), found cholesterol levels of an average large egg are 22 per cent less than previously thought. Cholesterol content in a average large egg was pegged at 213 milligrams in the study. The previous yardstick was 274 milligrams. The new totals for extra large and medium eggs are 230 and 180 milligrams respectively.

Fat content was also found to be slightly lower than previously reported at five grams in an average large egg.

Canadian authorities have recently accepted results of the comprehensive study that included egg samples from Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec along with eggs from across the United States. Changes in the cholesterol value in eggs has been attributed to changes in egg industry feeds, production practices and more precise testing methods.

As a result of the study, both Health and Welfare Canada and the USDA will revise their nutrient guidelines to reflect the new findings.

"The study also confirmed that eggs are low calorie and suitable for low calorie diets. As well, the study estimated that instead of 80 calories, an average large egg has 75 calories," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

Eggs have always been considered a nutritionally good food, she says. A serving of two eggs is a good source of iron and an excellent source of vitamin A. The egg white is almost pure protein. Eggs also contain vitamin B-12, riboflavin, calcium and other nutrients.

"There has been a lot of unnecessary concern about cholesterol in eggs and people removing eggs and other animal foods from their diets because they believed they would avoid heart problems by avoiding foods with cholesterol," says Whitmore.

(Cont'd)

Egg cholesterol lower than thought (cont'd)

"But most people don't have to worry about cholesterol levels in their food," she adds.

The body itself produces 80 per cent of blood cholesterol and for most people the amount of cholesterol they eat has a minimal effect on blood cholesterol levels, she says, plus the body gets rids of any excess.

"However, some people--potential heart attack victims, people with high blood pressure and those with high serum cholesterol--do have to watch and restrict their cholesterol intake," Whitmore says. For the general population however, she adds, how much fat each person eats has more of an effect on blood cholesterol levels than how much cholesterol is in their diet.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

# Honey prices improving

Alberta honey producers can be optimistic about prices for this year's crop says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Honey prices have begun to improve from the relatively low levels of 1988-89. A much smaller Canadian crop and anticipated lower American production should mean increased prices," says Al Dooley of the market analysis branch.

Currently local bulk honey prices are about 45 to 50 cents per pound with potential to move higher, he says. An apparent shortage of white and extra-white honey grades available to U.S. packers should also support higher prices.

"The smaller crop, normal domestic use and a modest export program should bring carryover stocks down to manageable levels," he adds. Four other factors could affect timing and extent of further price increases. They include the volume of honey carried over into the 1989-90 crop year, the beekeepers' cash flow situation, the extent the new crop honey has already been priced and committed to sale, the size of the U.S. honey crop and production in other major exporting countries.

Poor conditions and fewer colony numbers in 1989 account for the smaller Canadian crop. This year's estimated total production is just over 28,000 tonnes, the smallest honey crop since 1977-78. Last year's production was more than 37,000 tonnes and the 1983-87 five-year average was 38,400. The largest production declines were in the three Prairie provinces.

Alberta's honey production followed the national trends, decreasing with reduced colony numbers and a drop in yields. Yield per colony fell to 57 kg from 70 kg in 1988. Producing colonies fell by 15,000 to 135,000. The number of active beekeepers has also continued to drop. The 1989 total was 850, half the estimated total number of beekeepers in 1986.

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Contact: Al Dooley
427-5383

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

# 1990 MATFP conference targets timely issues

The speaker and topic line-up for the 1990 version of Alberta Agriculture's annual Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference is ready to be launched March 4.

The conference, designed to provide farm couples with an opportunity to learn more about agricultural trends, issues and challenges, will be at The Lodge at Kananaskis March 4 through 7.

"Participants will hear from leading-edge speakers and experts from across North America on a broad range of issues facing agriculture in the 1990s from the potential impacts of the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) to sustainable agriculture," says Paul Gervais, one of the conference organizers from Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

Economic, financial, business and farm management issues are highlighted at the conference. Some of the timely topics on the 13th annual conference agenda are: selecting the right life insurance, farm taxation, goal directed management and animal welfare.

Pre-conference workshops are also a feature of the conference. "These intensive sessions are offered to participants as an opportunity to spend more time learning about a specific topic area. This year's sessions include cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), setting family and farm goals, farm computers and communication skills," says Gervais.

Registration forms will be available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices by mid-December. Registration fees are $125 per person or $150 per couple. Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and the conference is limited to 450 participants.

For more information about the 1990 MATFP conference contact Gervais or Trish Stiles at 556-4240 or write to: MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0. The FAX number is (403)556-7545.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Stiles
556-4240

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

Economic principles used in farm planning
(Third in a series)

It takes some effort to learn the basics of farm planning, but once you've done it, the skill will be useful for the rest of your life says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Understanding and using the principles in farm planning requires study and energy," says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. "But once learned and applied, the principles benefit farmers by simplifying decision making."

Economic principles provide the framework to make informed and reasonable decisions which eventually will maximize the wealth of the decision maker. They are applied in all businesses, not just in farming.

A principle is defined as a general or fundamental truth, a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine or assumption on which others are based or from which others are derived. "In an era when management decisions are so critical to the success of any operation, it is important that these fundamental laws--economic principles--are understood when a farmer makes his plans," Edwards says.

"Fortunately, he adds, "There are only a few economic principles used to maximize returns in a business." Economic principles include diminishing returns, added costs and returns, equimarginal returns, opportunity costs and resource and product substitution.

In farm management, economic principles should guide decision-making. They simplify the job of choosing which resources--such as capital, land and labor--to use in production, what products and how much to produce, he says.

Edwards says these business principles are just as real as the principles people live by, the principles of nature or the principles of mechanics.

(Cont'd)

Economic principles used in farm planning (cont'd)

"Many of us live by the Golden Rule, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' which is a principle to live by. We learn to stand upright in our cribs after we adapt to the principles of gravity. Farmers use augers to move grain, using the principles of the screw described by Archimedes more than 2,000 years ago. We are surrounded by material goods built on the application of principles of nature, which we learned in school but can't remember now. How many of us can remember the principles of mechanics, heat and thermodynamics, optics, electricity, magnetism, sound and so on?"

The specialist says attending an Alberta Agriculture "Gear Up Advantage" course is one of the best ways to learn farm management skills. Program information is available by calling any Alberta Agriculture district office.

If unable to register for a course, farmers can learn more from a farm planning package available by writing Craig Edwards at Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, or by phoning 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

November 27, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

RURAL ALBERTANS AND PAYING THE PRODUCER

Paying-the-producer the Crow Benefit would have all sorts of effects on Alberta's economy. After a two year study a joint Alberta-British Columbia Task Force recently proposed that the Crow Benefit be paid to their province's producers. Rural Alberta households were mailed a 12-page tabloid information newsletter that discusses the pay-the-producer proposal in detail. "We hope rural Albertans will thoroughly read the newsletter, and then if they have questions to write or call the Planning Secretariat," says its chairman, Stan Schellenberger. The provincial government hasn't taken an official position on the proposal and wants to hear from the province's farmers, agribusinesses and rural citizens. The newsletter examines how the proposal would work, agricultural processing, getting grain to market, historical transportation issues, tomorrow's farm economy and the health of rural communities. More discussion is hoped to be sparked by the newsletter with producers and other rural Albertans giving their ideas, opinions and suggestions on the issue. For more information, contact the Planning Secretariat at 427-2417 or write the Secretariat at #301, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

ALBERTA RED ANGUS OFF TO UK

Two herd sires and a group of six Red Angus females have been purchased by an Edmonton-based international livestock trading company for a British customer. Selex Trading Ltd. purchased the purebred cattle for Sydenham Estates in Okehampton, England. The Sydenham group plans to use these animals as a part of founding herd of Red Angus. The group is also interested in establishing a Red Angus Society in the United Kingdom and getting purebred breed accreditation. Although the Angus breed originated in the United Kingdom, selective breeding and customer demand for larger framed animals in Canada has made Alberta beef breeds very attractive to foreign buyers. Selex and Syndenham group

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

RED ANGUS OFF TO UK (cont'd)

representatives travelled around Alberta to make the final selections. Two heifers were purchased from Lumont Red Angus, of Beisiker, a junior herd sire and two heifers from Towaw Red Angus, of Sangudo, a herd sire from Bar V Ranch of Bruderheim and two heifers from Royal Valley Cattle Co., also of Sangudo. Selex is predicting one of the best years in history for exports to the United Kingdom and other European Common market countries. A company release says, "Fears that trade may be restricted somewhat in coming years is causing a rush to Canada and particularly Alberta where health standards are the best in the world for animal genetics." Selex can be reached at 455-7161.

NEW CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES ELECTED

Alberta cattle producers returned 30 incumbent delegates to office during the recent series of Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) producer meetings and elections. Sixteen of the delegates are new and 35 more delegates were elected by acclamation. During the fall election and producer meetings, a number of issues were discussed ranging from research to the proposed producer security plan. Resolutions from those meetings will be presented to the ACC annual general meeting delegate body in Edmonton December 4 through 6. For more information, contact Gordon Mitchell or Joanne Lemke in Calgary at 275-4400.

NEW PRICING SYSTEM AT CEMA

The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) has introduced a more market sensitive pricing system. Seasonal pricing will allow CEMA to use a more flexible market sensitive pricing tool. The agency will continue to use a cost of production formula to set prices, but results will take seasonal demand patterns into account. It's expected egg prices will be higher in time of high demand while prices will drop when demand is soft. Traditionally the start of the year and summer are periods of low demand. CEMA is obliged by a federal-provincial agreement to return to efficient producers their costs plus a reasonable

(Cont'd)

NEW PRICING SYSTEM AT CEMA

return through the egg price. Any revenue lost because of seasonal pricing will be regained by the producer within the calendar year. The move is expected to reduce industrial product removal costs borne jointly by consumers and producers. For more information contact Ian Elliott or Ron Milito in Ottawa at (613)238-2514.

1990 PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CONFERENCE

Sustaining agriculture in the 1990's is the theme of the annual provincial Agriculture Service Board conference in Edmonton January 29 through February 1. Environmental concerns, a multiple land use panel, alternative farming practices and a discussion of the role of Agricultural Service Boards are on the agenda. Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan is also scheduled to speak to the delegates. December 20 is the pre-registration deadline. Region four of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen will be hosting the conference. For more information contact George Vachon in Bonnyville at 826-3171 or Dennis Bergheim in St. Paul at 645-3301.

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# AGRI-NEWS

DEC 20 1989

December 4, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Make your own farm first aid kit

Being prepared can mean saving a limb or a life when an accident occurs, and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program hopes farm families will take time to prepare by making their own farm first aid kit.

"Acting quickly certainly is the key when an accident happens, but having the right materials and tools close at hand to take control of the situation may be even more important," says Eric Jones, farm safety specialist.

The farm safety program has recently written a brochure to help farm families plan and put together first aid kits. The brochures will be available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the farm safety office in Edmonton.

"The brochure has a list of what the kits must contain, but look around your home to see if you have a suitable substitute. Being imaginative can keep the cost of the kit down. For example, old sheets can be used for dressings and bandages and hockey tape could be used for adhesive tape," he says.

Basic requirements for the kits include: a container, antiseptic swabs, Band-Aids for small cuts, a pair of scissors, safety pins, a variety of dressings and bandages, a set of splints, surgical gloves and a "save a limb" kit.

To make the first aid kit work best, it's recommended the contents be divided into packages. These packages are for small, medium and large wounds, first aid tools and the "Save a limb" kit.

"Necessary items for a first aid kit are listed, as well as how to do the packaging," says Jones. A condensed St. John Ambulance first aid manual, an occupational health and safety injury record book and an inventory of the kit's contents also should be included in the kit.

The brochure also discusses how to save a limb for possible reattachment. "Modern medicine can perform miraculous things, so it's definitely worth the effort to know the steps in saving a limb," he says.

(Cont'd)

Make your own farm first aid kit (cont'd)

After finding the limb and cleaning away debris, it should be wrapped in a clean dressing from the kit. Then place the amputated limb in a waterproof plastic bag and seal the bag. Fill a second bag with cold water, cold coffee or ice. Place the bag with the amputated limb into the second bag and seal it. Put a tag indicating the time and date on the bag. Transport the bags with the amputee to the nearest hospital.

Cover and elevate the victim's stump if possible. This area seldom bleeds profusely, but if there is bleeding a tourniquet should be applied close to the end of the stump.

For more information contact the farm safety program office in Edmonton at 427-2186.

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Contact: Eric Jones
427-2186

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Pilot project joins 4-Hers and Standardbred breeders

Six Alberta senior 4-H club members will have a unique opportunity to raise Standardbred foals in a co-operative pilot project between Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch and the Alberta Standardbred Association.

In the project, the 4-H member will receive a Standardbred foal from a co-operating Alberta breeder, raise the foal, prepare it for sale and auction it the following year at the annual fall Alberta Standardbred Horse Association sale.

The 4-H members taking part in the experimental project are : Julie Giles, Airdrie Hoofs and Hobbles, Airdrie; Matt Read, Irricana 4-H Riders, Irricana; Christy Chostner, Rainbow Riders, Craigmyle; Perry Rasmuson, Pipestone Light Horse, Gwynne; Dana Larson, Pipestone Light Horse, Millet; and Dawn Callicott, Rainbow Riders, St. Albert. Respective breeders are: Gordon Gregory, Calgary; Bud Coote, Calgary; Bev Sears, Calgary; Alfred Carter, Winfield; Sam Johnson, Sherwood Park; and Bill Schwonik, Wetaskiwin.

Above left to right are: Ron Macleod, president of the Alberta Standardbred Association; Bev Sears, young horse project co-ordinator for the association; Perry Rasmuson, Dawn Callicot, Matt Read, Julie Giles, and Dana Larson. Christy Chostner is the missing 4-H member.

(Cont'd)

Pilot project joins 4-Hers and Standardbred breeders (cont'd)

"The pilot program is based on the Michigan 4-H Standardbred yearling project. The Alberta association's president pitched the idea to us after a visit there," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

The 4-H branch approached geographically selected horse clubs to see if any senior members would be interested in the program. Wiegman says the pilot projects fits in with the existing 4-H young horse program objectives. In that program the member is involved from selecting and breeding the mare to training the foal.

This pilot project officially runs from October, 1989 to the end of September, 1990 and the sale. Members received the foals when they were between four and six months old.

Besides care and training of the animal, the 4-Her's other responsibility is feeding costs. Documented costs, such as the required insurance, are covered in the eventual sale of the animal. "One of the objectives of the program is teaching the young horse enthusiast about the economics of raising a horse," says Wiegman. The sale price is split, with breeder receiving 60 per cent and the 4-H member receiving 40 per cent after the members documented expenses are paid up to a maximum of $1000. The formula will be used to a sale price of $5,000. If the sale price is above $5,000, the member will receive 10 per cent and 90 per cent will go to the breeder.

Workshops are also part of the program. Breeders and members met at a November workshop and discussed nutrition, health care, vaccination and hoof care. Representatives from the association talked about how a foal is blood typed, registered and named.

Project achievement will take place at the sale and will be based on goal-achievement, showmanship and grooming.

"Breeders are excited about the project and also impressed by the knowledge of the 4-H members," says Wiegman. "Along with exposure of their breed, the provincial Standardbred association wanted to provide experience to young Albertans, open new career doors to them and stress the dollars horses generate in our economy."

(Cont'd)

Pilot project joins 4-Hers and Standardbred breeders (cont'd)

Wiegman says he's confident the pilot project will be successful and the program will become part of Alberta 4-H activities. "We'll be assessing the program as it goes along, because we'll need to advertise next year's program before this one is finished."

Members must be 14 years of age, have permission from parent or guardian, the recommendation of their 4-H leader, demonstrate adequate stabling, feeding and grazing facilities and are expected to have horse experience, knowledge and adult assistance.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Leadership skills focus of Peace region conference

While enthusiasm is a necessary ingredient for any organization to work well, and keep working, enthusiasm without direction can be a frustrating experience that dampens the zest of even the most dedicated workers.

Developing leadership skills to give direction to and maintain the vitality of rural volunteer organizations in the Peace region is the objective of a conference scheduled for February 2 through 4 in Grande Prairie. Alberta Agriculture and the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) are organizing the leadership conference.

The conference is basic training for people who feel they don't have enough skills or who aren't currently affiliated with any group and are unsure about how to get involved.

"The conference is a response to a need identified by the people in the region. For some people, getting involved in an organization can be overwhelming. This is an opportunity to gain confidence and volunteering skills through participation at the conference learning sessions," says Louise Welsh, a community services program consultant with Alberta Agriculture.

"Helping new volunteers is the conference's aim, but it isn't limited to only new volunteers. People already involved in an organization who want to sharpen their skills and become better leaders can also attend," says Mahlon Weir, supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H program services.

Conference participants will be able to choose from a variety of sessions related to communication and organizational skills. Topics include: Parliamentary procedure, running effective meetings, public speaking and written and interpersonal communication.

"The sessions will be practical and fun, not just theory. We want to maximize each participant's hands-on learning experience," says Richard Stringham, REDA director of youth and community services.

(Cont'd)

Leadership skills focus of Peace region conference (cont'd)

Anyone interested in attending the conference is encouraged to register as soon as possible, as there are only 60 spaces available. The registration deadline is January 19.

Conference brochures are now available through Alberta Agriculture district offices in the Peace region. More information is also available from REDA in Edmonton at 451-5959.

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Contact: Mahlon Weir 427-2541
Louise Welsh 427-2171
Richard Stringham 451-5959

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Popular poinsettia provides Christmas color

If you're planning on buying a holiday season's traditional poinsettia plant, be on the lookout for a variety of colors and arrangements says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"We usually think of the red poinsettia, but the plant is also available in pink, creamy white or a marbled pink and cream. You should also look for the very attractive tricolor arrangement--a pot with one pink, one cream and one red poinsettia," says Pam North, information officer at Alberta Agriculture's Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Something not everyone knows is that the true flowers of the poinsettia aren't the colorful part of the plant. The flowers are actually the green and yellow structures at the top of each stem. The colorful part of the plants are modified leaves called bracts. The colorful bracts will last through the holiday season and with proper care will stay colorful for two or three months, she says.

"When you're buying a plant look at the true flowers. If they have fallen off, then the plant isn't as fresh as possible," advises North.

To care for a poinsettia, keep the plant in a bright location, but out of direct sunlight. Normal room temperature is suitable but the bracts will keep longer in cool conditions between 16 and 22 degrees Celsius. Avoid drafty locations near a door or over heat registers. Water the poinsettia when the soil surface feels dry to the touch. The foliage will also droop slightly. Never allow the plant to sit in water for any length of time. Low light levels, over or under watering and drafty conditions will cause the leaves to curl and fall off, she notes.

"And poinsettias aren't poisonous, but white sap from the plant may cause skin irritations," North says.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Giving festive flower gifts

Poinsettias are a traditional favorite plant gift during the holiday season, but a wide variety of flowering plants can put color into Christmas says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Chrysanthemums, Christmas cactus, azaleas and cyclamen are excellent gift ideas and add a festive touch to homes through the holiday season and beyond," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

North also has some unique ideas to look for when shopping for flowering plants. "The 'mumsettia', a pot of white chrysanthemums surrounding a single red poinsettia, is a novel idea at Christmas."

She also suggests ornamental peppers as an unusual and decorative plant at Christmas. "The red peppers contrast nicely with the green foliage. It's also a useful gift as the hot peppers can be dried and used in cooking," she says.

Chrysanthemums offer the most color choices. Available year-round, flowers come in a wide variety of forms and colors. Poinsettias range from a deep red to pink to creamy white. Christmas cactus has flower shades of red, pink and orange. Red, pink and white flowering azaleas are popular at Christmas. Cyclamen's unusual and delicate flowers include pink, red, purple and white.

Another popular Christmas plant is the amaryllis. "It's a perfect gift plant because it's easy to grow and very showy," says North. The amaryllis is grown from a bulb and is sold individually or in gift boxes containing a bulb, pot and soil. It takes approximately four to six weeks from planting to flowering.

When choosing a gift plant North advises selecting plants with flower buds that are just beginning to open.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Caring for gift plants

Overwatering is the most common mistake people make when they receive a plant gift says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"The amount of water a plant needs depends on its type, but the general rule is to water the soil when it feels dry to the touch. One exception is the azalea and its soil should always be kept moist," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

"One way to avoid a problem is to remove the colored foil wrap around gifts plants when you are watering, then the plant won't sit in water. You can put the plants in a sink to water them, or make holes in the bottom of the foil so water can drain out," says North.

Put plants in bright light, but out of direct sun. A hot sunny location will usually reduce the life of flowers. Because winter frequently means cloudy days, ensure plants get enough light. In a dark dimly lit location flowers won't last as long.

Normal room temperatures are usually suitable, but flowering plants last longer in cool temperatures, between 16 and 22 degrees Celsius. "You can put the plant in the basement at night where it's cooler to prolong its life," North says. Cyclamen, in particular, need cool conditions.

As well, plants should be kept out of drafty locations such as by a door or over heat registers. Drafts will also reduce the length of time the plant is attractive.

Misting can prolong the life of flowers, but must be done frequently. "Frequently means at least twice a day to be of any benefit. Most homes are so dry that misting will be of little value. For plants that like high humidity, such as an azaleas, set on a humidity tray."

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

# Caring for your Christmas tree

Making your Christmas tree last the holiday season starts by buying a fresh tree says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"A fresh tree is one of the most important things you can do. Run your fingers over the branches to make sure needles aren't brittle. Shake the tree lightly and only a few needles should fall," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Tree type also makes a difference in how long the tree will last, she adds. Scots or Scotch pine are the most resistant to drying and dropping needles. White pine, Douglas fir and balsam fir also retain their needles quite well. Spruce will shed their needles more quickly North says.

Tree care and location in the house also play a role in how fresh the tree stays. "When you get your tree home, cut off three centimetres or about an inch from the base of the trunk. This removes resin that can clog water conducting tissues and prevent water absorption," she says.

It's also important to place the tree in water as soon as possible. Tree stands should hold about a litre of water. The container should be kept full of water and not allowed to dry out. The warmer and drier the house, the more moisture the tree will lose. A larger tree will also use more water. "Watch carefully during the first few days because water usage will be greatest then," she adds.

"Also don't put your tree near or over a heat register, this will cause the needles to lose moisture more quickly," says North.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

Making production decisions
(Fourth in a series)

A review of economic production principles and a method to apply them to on-farm decision making is outlined in a new Alberta Agriculture factsheet.

Applying nitrogen fertilizer to barley is used as an example to illustrate the basic economic principles involved, says Craig Edwards, a specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

Tables and graphs show expected barley yield in relation to nitrogen fertilizer application, dollar value related to time delays in receiving revenue and risk and uncertainty considerations. Farmers can make good use of this article, says Edwards. "It explains a simple method to adjust expectations to different conditions of the real world using proven principles of production." Leonard Bauer, a University of Alberta rural economy professor, wrote the article.

"A fertilizer decision is only one of many decisions farmers have to make each year, but most decisions can be made better and easier by using a process like this," Edwards says.

"Making Production Decisions", Agdex 818-35, is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Farmers wanting to participate in a comprehensive farm management course that includes production planning should register as soon as possible for a "Gear Up Advantage" course from Alberta Agriculture. Call a district office for more information and enjoy learning about production and financial planning this winter.

Planning assistance is also available from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists or regional farm economists. The farm business management branch has prepared a farm planning package for interested farmers. It is available by writing to Craig Edwards at Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or by phoning 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 4, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

REDA OFFERS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

If you want to develop your leadership potential, a series of workshops offered by the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) and the University of Alberta faculty of extension, may be what you're looking for. The 15th annual introductory leadership skills (level 1) workshop will be held January 22 through 26 at the Goldeye Centre near Nordegg. Level one workshop participants work on communication, public speaking and effective meeting management. Consensus seeking, leader-group dynamics and other leadership areas are examined. The workshop includes lectures, group discussions and individual and group exercises. Brochures and applications for the program are available from REDA at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 2N9 or call 451-5959.

SERVING BULL

Cattle producers were fed a bunch of bull at the University of Missouri, but many didn't realize it. In a taste test, 80 producers were given a plate with two pieces of cooked meat and asked which one was from a bull. Half picked the wrong meat. Twenty-two per cent of those who misidentified the meat said they preferred what they thought was steer meat, but was actually from a bull. Harold Hedrick, a University of Missouri food scientist, said in "The Furrow" the results didn't surprise him. "When managed properly and slaughtered young, bulls produce very good beef."

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# Coming Agricultural Events

**Alberta Wheat Pool annual meeting**
Palliser Hotel
Calgary.....November 27 - December 8
Doug Brunton – 290-4647 – Calgary

**Alberta Cattle Commission annual general meeting**
Coast Terrace Inn
Edmonton.....December 4-6
Gordon Mitchell or Joanne Lemke – 275-4400 – Calgary

**Western Stock Growers 94th annual convention and short course**
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel and
Lethbridge Research Centre
Lethbridge .....December 11 - 14
Terry Davis – 250-9121 – Calgary

**Alberta Cattle Breeders Association (annual membership meeting)**
International Room, Agriculture Building,
Stampede Park
Calgary ..... December 16
Don Stewart – 261-0266 – Calgary

# 1990 Events

**Western Canadian Wheat Growers (20th Anniversary) annual meeting**
Ramada Renaissance
Regina, Saskatchewan .....January 3 - 6
Janice Siekawitch – (306)586-5866 – Regina, Saskatchewan

**Unifarm convention**
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton.....January 8 -11
Willow Webb – 451-5912 – Edmonton

**58th Farm and Home Week**
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon .....January 8 - 12
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference**
Capri Centre
Red Deer.....January 12 - 14
Les Burwash – 297-6650 – Calgary;
Bob Coleman – 427-8905 – Edmonton

**Grow Show**
North Pavilion, Westerner Altaplex, Westerner Park
Red Deer.....January 17 - 19
Pat Kennedy – 347-4491 or 342-7800 – Red Deer

**Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants annual conference**
Westin Hotel
Edmonton.....January 18 - 20
Gus Lindstrom – 372-3580 – Bashaw

**1st joint convention of the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta and British Columbia and the Saskatchewan Manitoba Implement Dealers Association**
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton.....January 18 - 20
William J. Lipsey – 250-7581 – Calgary

**Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association annual convention**
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton.....January 18 -20
Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association – 489-1991

**"Best In the West" horticulture trade show**
Hilton International
Edmonton.....January 18 -20
Judith Dreisig – 489-1991 – Edmonton

**Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists**
Delta
Winnipeg, Manitoba .....January 21 - 23
Dan Dixon – (204)945-3861

**Alberta Canola Growers Association**
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton.....January 24 - 26
Albert Schatzke – 454-0844 – Edmonton

**Banff Pork Seminar (19th annual)**
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff.....January 23 - 26
Jerome Martin – 492-3116 – Edmonton

**Canadian Honey Council**
Delta
Winnipeg, Manitoba .....January 24 - 26
Linda Jane – (306)862-3011 – Nipawan, Saskatchewan

**Camrose Bull Congress**
Camrose Exhibition Centre
Camrose.....January 26 - 27
Larry Werner – 672-3610 – Camrose

**Production for the '90's (a Pool/Westco Seminar)**
Lethbridge Lodge .....January 29
Medicine Hat Lodge .....January 29
Jim Hahn – 328-5005 – Lethbridge;
Lawerence Nicholson – 526-2955 – Medicine Hat

**Agricultural Service Board provincial conference**
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton.....January 30 - February 1
Dennis Bergheim – 645-3301 – St. Paul

**Alberta Branch, Canadian Seed Growers' Association**
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....January 31 - February 1
Bill Witbeck – 782-4641 – Lacombe

**Dairy Herdsman Assistant program**
Olds College
Olds.....February 5
Livestock production programmer – 556-8344 – Olds

**Alberta Dairyman's Association annual meeting and convention**
Edmonton Convention Center
Edmonton..... February 5 - 7
Lawrence McKnight – 453-5942 – Edmonton

**Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry (10th annual)**
Marlborough Inn
Calgary..... February 11 - 12
John Melicher – 451-5959 – Edmonton

**Western Canadian Society for Horticulture conference**
Holiday Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... February 11 - 15
Betty Vladicka – 472-6043 – Edmonton

**Society for Range Management annual meeting**
John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel and Casino
Reno, Nevada, USA..... February 11 - 16
Jerry Schwien – (303)355-7070 – Denver, Colorado

**Western Barley Growers 13th annual convention and trade fair**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village..... February 14 - 16
Anne Schneider – 291-3630 – Calgary

**Alberta Holstein Association annual meeting**
Nisku Inn
Nisku ..... February 15 - 16
Lorie Kamps – 782-3957 – Lacombe

**Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies annual conference**
Marlborough Inn
Calgary..... February 15 - 17
Eve-Lyn Cockle – 427-2174 – Edmonton

**Overcoming Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture**
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... February 20 - 21
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Decision with Vision—Farm Women's conference**
Glenmore Inn
Calgary.....February 22
Maureen Bolen – 934-3355 – Strathmore;
Kathy Lowther – 948-8551 – Airdrie

**Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association 20th annual convention**
Skyline Hotel, Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary..... February 22 - 24
Randy Poole – (306)522-2710 – Regina, Saskatchewan

**Western Canada's Premiere Warmblood Horse sale**
Olds College
Olds.....February 24
Jennette Coote – 556-8267 – Olds

**Ag-Expo 1990**
Whoop-Up Park (Exhibition Grounds)
Lethbridge ..... February 28 - March 3
Paulette Reid – 328-4491 – Lethbridge

**North American Seed Fair**
Lethbridge Ag-Expo
Lethbridge ..... February 28 - March 3
Doug Smith – 328-5005 – Lethbridge;
Exhibition office – 328-4491 – Lethbridge

**Alberta Horticultural Association annual convention**
Lakeland College
Vermilion .....March 2-4
Betty Vladicka – 472-6043 – Edmonton

**Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show (42nd annual)**
Stampede Park
Calgary .....March 3 - 6
Larry Welsh – 948-8535 – Airdrie;
Don Stewart – 261-0121 – Calgary

**Calgary Bull Sale**
Stampede Park
Calgary .....March 4 - 6
Don Stewart – 261-0121 – Calgary

**Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village .....March 4 - 7
Trish Stiles – 556-4276 – Olds

**Peace Country Classic**
Evergreen Park
Grande Prairie .....March 8 - 10
Gerald Rutberg – 532-3279 – Grande Prairie

**Alberta Agriculture Week** .....March 11 - 17

**Farming for the Future Conference**
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge .....March 14 - 15
Sharon Abbott – 427-1956 – Edmonton

**Alberta Pulse Growers annual meeting**
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....March 22 - 23
Renald Lamoreaux – 998-5278 – Fort Saskatchewan;
Hugh Craig – 973-6892 – Namao;
Blair Roth – 381-5127 – Lethbridge

**Farm and Ranch Show**
Northlands Agri-Com
Edmonton.....March 27 - 30
Northlands agriculture department – 471-7210 – Edmonton

**Western Canadian Dairy Seminar**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 27 - 30
Jerome Martin – 492-3116 – Edmonton

**Calgary Stampede Dairy Classic**
Agricultural Pavilion, Stampede Park
Calgary.....April 20 - 21
Don Stewart – 261-0313 – Calgary

**Highway Clean-up by 4-H Clubs** ..... May 5

**Swine Feeder's Day**
Swine research unit, University of Alberta
Edmonton ..... May 31
Frank Aherne – 492-2118 – Edmonton

**Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology 33rd annual conference**
Bessborough Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....June 3 - 6
Eiler Humbert – (306)966-5024 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA) reunion**
Olds College
Olds.....June 17 - 24
Bernice Luce – 783-2085 – Ponoka

**Airseeding '90--an international air seeder technology conference**
Regina, Saskatchewan .....June 19 - 21
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Canadian Hereford Association's 100th birthday**
Port O'Call Inn
Calgary ..... July 3- 5
Bev Leavitt – 227-5246 – Innisfail

**University of Alberta ranch day**
University of Alberta Ranch
Kinsella..... July 5
Mac Makarechian – 492-1316 – Edmonton

**Breton Plots field day**
Breton Plots
Breton..... July 6
J. A. Robertson – 492-3242 – Edmonton

**Confederacion Interamericana de Ganaderos (CIAGA) Hosted by Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA)**
Convention Centre
Calgary ..... July 13 - 17
Post conference tour ..... July 18 - 26
Norma Dunn – 228-3467 – Calgary

**Bonanza '90—Canadian Junior Hereford Association annual show**
Olds College
Olds .....August 1- 4
Joy Gregory – 275-2662 – Calgary



AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-212

# Coming agricultural events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **April, May, June or later in 1990**? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?
- Please state the name of the event.
- What are the dates?
- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.
- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.
- This form has been completed by (organization):

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Please return this form by February 21, 1990 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed March 5, 1990)

# AGRI-NEWS

December 11, 1989

For immediate release

CANADIANA
JAN - 4 1990

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Soil moisture highly variable around province

An annual fall sampling of moisture in stubble fields around the province shows a wide variety of conditions says Alberta Agriculture's soil moisture specialist.

"There were three large very dry areas with highly variable conditions throughout the rest of the province," says Allan Howard.

Stubble field soil moisture is sampled annually between the end of September and the end of October. The fall version of the stubble soil moisture map is produced from these sample results, along with analysis of rainfall data and discussions with regional and district Alberta Agriculture staff and Agriculture Canada staff about local variability and changes in moisture levels.

The largest dry region was a triangular area extending southwest from the Neutral Hills (south of Provost) to Vulcan and east to Medicine Hat. Another very dry area extended southeast from Foremost into Montana. The third dry area was in the northern Peace region around Fort Vermilion.

A western area of the province extending from west of Calgary into the Peace region and pockets around Vegreville and Cold Lake show high soil moisture.

"In the map, I've shown two areas of high soil moisture. In the best type of "high", subsoil moisture is extensive. Soil is generally saturated in the other--around Grande Prairie, Spirit River and Falher--but subsoil may be dry," says Howard.

Rain in that area of the Peace region kept farmers from completing their harvest. While many fields had standing water on them, in most cases downward movement of water was very slow. Subsoil samples were dry below 60 cm and in some cases below 30 cm, he says.

"If winter conditions provide insufficient snowcover or a rapid, early snowmelt, these soils could be undesirably dry by spring," Howard adds.

(Cont'd)

Soil moisture highly variable around province (cont'd)

During the period from November 1 to seeding, moisture levels can change. Generally, soil moisture will increase in moist and dry soil areas by 20 to 40 per cent with over winter precipitation. The exact increase will depend on current soil moisture levels, precipitation and environmental conditions. The soil moisture map is updated in the spring.

"It's quite possible that areas which currently appear too dry for recropping will store sufficient moisture before seeding to permit recropping. Farmers will have a greater chance of increasing stored moisture if stubble is left standing on the field to trap snow," he says.

The soil moisture maps are guides to actual moisture conditions. Crop use, land management practices, local precipitation and topographic conditions determine actual moisture conditions in any field. "We recommend each field's moisture be sampled prior to seeding decisions," says Howard.

For more information about satisfactory stubble moisture conditions for recropping, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861, any regional Alberta Agriculture crop production or soil specialist or any district agriculturist.

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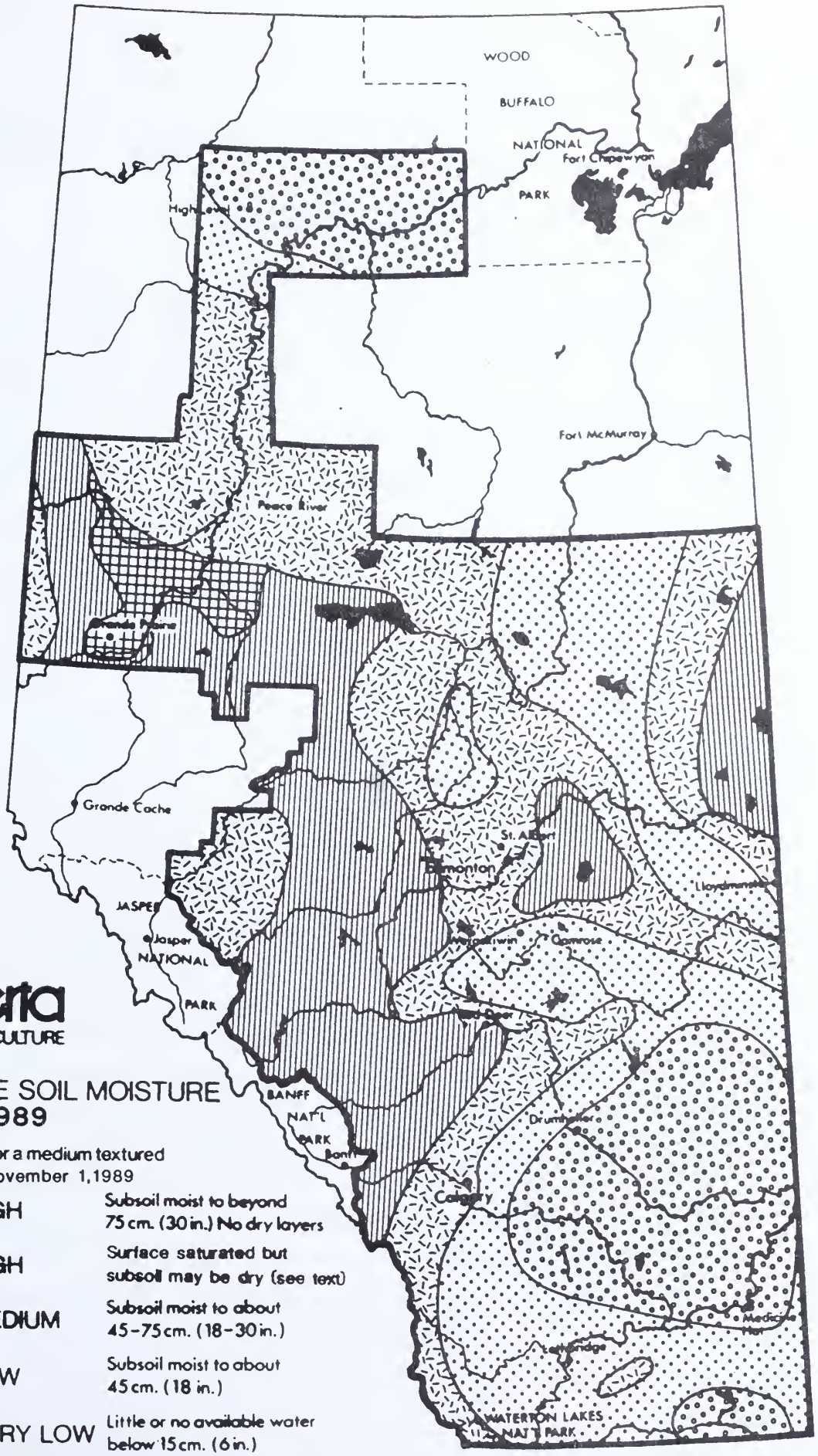
Contact: Allan Howard
381-5861

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The fall stubble soil moisture map is attached.**




Alberta
AGRICULTURE

# STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
# FALL, 1989

Estimated for a medium textured soil as of November 1,1989

| | |
|---|---|
| HIGH | Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm. (30 in.) No dry layers |
| HIGH | Surface saturated but subsoil may be dry (see text) |
| MEDIUM | Subsoil moist to about 45–75 cm. (18–30 in.) |
| LOW | Subsoil moist to about 45 cm. (18 in.) |
| VERY LOW | Little or no available water below 15 cm. (6 in.) |

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

Harvest not over in the Peace

The calendar said November was ending, but farmers scattered through the Peace region were combining, trying to complete a harvest hampered by excessive moisture.

It's been a very wet fall for producers in the area approximately bounded by Grande Prairie in the southwest, Spirit River in the northwest, Falher in the northeast and Valleyview in the southeast. Farmers took their combines into frozen fields that would take the weight of their equipment off and on through November as weather permitted. Rain, again, halted activity in fields on December 4.

How much of the 1989 crop is still left in fields is hard to estimate. An Alberta Agriculture final crop report in mid-November estimated as much as 300,000 acres remained to be harvested.

Valleyview district agriculturist, Darryl Wells, says between 50 and 55 per cent of the crops east and south of Valleyview in Improvement District 16 are still out in the fields and because of the extremely wet conditions likely will remain there until spring.

"At the present time, producers don't anticipate getting into their fields until spring," he says, adding that will make spring extremely busy as farmers will have to clear their fields before they can start seeding.

West of Valleyview, Wells says harvest is about 95 to 98 per cent complete, with the remaining crop left in isolated pockets.

From his discussions with farmers and elevator agents, Kent MacDonald, district agriculturist in Spirit River, says he estimates around 30 per cent of the crops in his area haven't been harvested.

He says precipitation problems are concentrated in pockets throughout his district, mostly south of Spirit River and Rycroft and near Woking. While one farmer might be finished, a neighbour a quarter of a mile still has standing grain, he says.

(Cont'd)

Harvest not over in the Peace (cont'd)

The only good news for those producers is that crops they are bringing in are still grading at number three. "The agents have been surprised. Most of the grain was still standing and that's why it has graded as high as three," he says.

In the Falher area, district agriculturist Kimber Mader says between 800 and 1,000 acres remain out in the fields. Weather in late November was almost too warm to take harvest equipment into the fields as the ground warmed up enough to make it wet going. "If it turns cold, then snow becomes a problem again," he adds.

"Most guys are just happy to get crop off and, generally speaking, it's turned out better than they thought it would," says Bill Smith, district agriculturist in Grande Prairie. He says under five per cent of the crop is left to be harvested in his area. Through the last three weeks of November producers were able to combine a lot of the remaining crop, he says. Custom combining crews from Saskatchewan were also working in the area after freeze-up.

Smith says crops in the Grande Prairie area have been grading mostly as feed. It has snowed three times, but he says there has been little crop loss due to the snow. Barley yields are down between 30 and 50 per cent and wheat has mostly suffered through grade loss. Summer diseases also took a toll on canola and farmers have seen between 10 and 50 per cent yield loss on their late harvested canola crops.

"Crops still out are where it's extremely wet and where there are heavy soil types," Smith says. Farmers with crops in the heavy gumbo soils are reluctant to rut their fields by taking in equipment, he adds. "For now, they are more concerned about next spring, than what's left in the field."

Eaglesham district agriculturist, Mike Pearson, echoes Smith. While not moving into fields now decreases problems with rutting, farmers could be "behind the eight ball" having to clear fields before they put in next year's crop, he says.

(Cont'd)

Harvest not over in the Peace (cont'd)

Combines in the western end of his district have been running on and off for the last month as weather--frozen ground and lack of snow cover--permitted. Most of the harvesting has been on standing wheat, Pearson says.

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Contact: Kent MacDonald
864-3597

Mike Pearson
359-3828

Kimber Mader
837-2211

Darryl Wells
524-3301

Bill Smith
538-5285

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

Continued support for blackleg of canola testing

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced continued government funding to seed test canola for the virulent blackleg of canola fungus.

Alberta Agriculture will pay the first $20 for each canola sample submitted for the blackleg test. Producers will pay the remaining cost of the test. This program is retroactive to September 1, 1989.

In December 1988, Alberta Agriculture launched a comprehensive program to halt the spread of the devastating disease in the province. One element of the plan was seed testing.

"Last year the program was widely supported by producers, growers and their formal organizations, the Alberta Canola Growers Commission and the Canadian Seed Growers Association," says Ieuan Evans, plant pathology supervisor with the crop protection branch.

Prevention is the first line of defense against the infectious fungus that reduces crop yield, he says. "One preventative measure is to ensure that canola seed is free of blackleg. This should be confirmed by a certificate," he says. Seed testing laboratories offering the testing service include: Alberta Wheat Pool, Camrose; United Grain Growers and Norwest Laboratories, Edmonton; and, Newfield Seeds Ltd., Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

Province wide awareness about the destructive nature of virulent blackleg of canola should ensure steps are taken to keep non-infested land free of the fungus, he adds.

Virulent blackleg of canola was first detected in eastern Alberta in 1983. More information, including a video about the disease, is available from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists.

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Contact: Ieuan Evans
427-7098

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Alberta 4-H judges win in Regina

A team of eight Alberta 4-H members competed at an international judging competition at Agribition. Seated in front are Larry Helfrich (left), of Uniblok Canada, the team sponsor, and Brian Davies. Back row from left to right are: Bob Binks, coach; Rusty Cox, Susan Knight, Kim Nousek, Kirk Wildman, Kim Buzak, Karrie Werenka, and Brad Fournier.

Alberta 4-Hers took three of the top four spots in livestock judging at the international 4-H judging seminar during the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina.

Brad Fournier, of Wetaskiwin, and Karrie Werenka, of Sangudo, were first and second in aggregate totals with Brian Davies, of Dewberry, fourth.

Along the way Fournier, of the Armena Beef Club, was first in beef, first in sheep and second in swine judging. Werenka received first place marks in the swine judging part of the competition. Davies was second in dairy and fourth in light horse elements of the competition.

(Cont'd)

Alberta 4-H judges win in Regina (cont'd)

The team's trip was sponsored by Uniblok Canada. The company, a divison of Superior Feeds, is located in Rockyford.

All of the team members placed in the top five in various parts of the competition. Kim Buzak, of the Bon Accord Beef Club, was second in beef judging. Fort Saskatchewan Beef Club member Kim Nousek was third in oral reasons presentation. Susan Knight, of the Chestermere Beef Club, was first in light horse judging and Rusty Cox, of the Armena Club, was third in light horse judging. Kirk Wildman, of Sangudo, placed fifth in swine judging.

The Sangudo 4-Hers also qualified to attend the Canadian Charolais Association beef evaluation workshop next May at Olds College. Werenka took first place honors judging Charolais heifers and Wildman was first judging bulls.

"Our team was well-prepared for Agribition and we're very proud of their fine accomplishments," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

The team was accompanied to Regina by coach Bob Binks, of Grande Prairie, and Milo Barfuss, southern region 4-H specialist.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Healthy lifestyle entertaining

Careful food choices can make winter and holiday entertaining a more healthy experience says an Alberta Agriculture food and nutrition specialist.

"Today, many people are being careful about food choices. They don't want to eat--or be tempted by--foods that are high in fat and calories. They want to avoid very salty food and perhaps get a little fiber," says Linda St. Onge.

Preparing food for guests with that concern in mind can be a challenge, she says, but party foods can be modified to keep in tune with nutritional concerns. St. Onge has several suggestions. "There's a real variety of things you can serve that still taste and look good. Better still, many are foods grown or processed right here in Alberta," she says.

Fresh Alberta vegetable sticks are popular and can be served instead of salty, high-fat snacks. For dipping, blend low-fat cottage cheese with a little lemon juice, yogurt and spices. Another suggestions is potato wedges, instead of potato chips. Cut scrubbed potatoes into small wedges, brush lightly with canola oil, then sprinkle lightly with grated Parmesan or paprika or whatever spice you enjoy. Bake on a cookie sheet at 400 degrees until tender.

Whole grain cereal squares can be mixed with reduced salt pretzel sticks and nuts to make a nutritious snack. Low-salt, whole-grain crackers with low-fat Alberta cheese is a variation of an old standard. Nuts, while nutritious, are high in fat. Instead, try popcorn, with only a little melted fat and salt added.

For an informal gathering, St. Onge suggests chili or a low-fat pasta dish served with whole wheat rolls, fresh vegetables or salad and a fruit platter left out for nibbling with a low fat cheese.

Cutting calories and fat can also extend to traditional family recipes, she says.

(Cont'd)

Healthy lifestyle entertaining (cont'd)

"Our favorite Christmas or New Year's feasts usually include family favorites that we're unwilling to give up. Sometimes that recipe can be adapted to include more nutritious ingredients. For example, much of our Christmas baking could be done with 25 per cent less sugar and fat than the recipe calls for. Use low-fat sour cream, yogurt or cottage cheese in things like dips or on potatoes. Look for processed meats that are lower in fat and salt."

She also says entertaining around a meal may mean not worrying about having extra snacks. "When entertaining around a meal, there's no need to have food out for continual snacking, tempting your guests to overindulge."

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Contact: Linda St. Onge
427-2412

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Tillage society plans annual conference

The facts about pesticide residues will be the focus of two days of discussion at seminars during the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society's (ACTS) annual meeting next month.

"The discussions will help producers learn more about how to protect and improve this country's most valuable agricultural resource, its soil," says Larry Welsh, Alberta Agriculture's south central regional crop production specialist.

New weed problems, fertilizer placement and an overview of the current federal pesticide regulation review are other agenda highlights at the meeting in Red Deer January 16 and 17. Speakers will include Alberta Agriculture, Health and Welfare Canada and Hoechst Canada representatives.

"A farmer panel will discuss the need to make sure proponents of sustainable agriculture are aware of the issue of soil degradation and the benefits of using chemical controls to halt that degradation," says Welsh, who is also an ACTS director.

During the two-day conference, a luncheon will honor recipients of Soil Conservation Awards. Co-sponsored by ACTS and the Western Producer, one award recognizes outstanding achievement in soil conservation by an Alberta farmer, while the other recognizes a group effort in soil conservation.

Formed in 1978, ACTS exists to combat soil and water degradation, problems that now cost Canadian farmers an estimated $1 billion each year. The society boasts 280 members from across the province.

ACTS president Spencer Hilton, of Strathmore, says he expects a good turnout at the January meeting. To register for the convention and seminars contact an ACTS representative in your area, or for more information call: Spencer Hilton in Strathmore at 934-2891; Larry Welsh in Airdrie at 948-8535; Dan Stryker in Foremost at 867-2103; or, Cliff Mikula in Nampa at 322-2436.

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Contact: Larry Welsh
948-8535

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

# Nominations open for soil conservation awards

A provincial soil conservation organization and a Prairie agricultural newspaper have teamed together to sponsor soil conservation awards to recognize an Alberta farmer and a group for their conservation achievements.

The Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and the Western Producer are calling for nominations for the first annual Conservation Farmer Award and a Group Conservation Award to be presented in January at ACTS annual meeting.

Nominations for the awards closes on December 31, says Larry Welsh, an Alberta Agriculture crop production specialist and an ACTS director.

"ACTS promotes conservation management of Alberta's soils and we want to recognize individuals and groups who are protecting one of our most precious resources.

"Many individual farmers, as well as a variety of agricultural and community organizations, have been developing innovative approaches to soil conservation. These awards will recognize their achievements and also showcase their methods to other producers," he says.

A panel of judges will review all of the nominations with the winners announced at a luncheon on January 17. Award plaques will be presented to the winners by the Western Producer. The newspaper will also pay travel and accommodation costs for the winners to attend the ACTS convention and awards luncheon.

Individual farmers will be judged 75 per cent on their conservation methods and 25 per cent on leadership in conservation activities. Their long term plan, innovations, benefits and success with conservation methods will be assessed along with public presentations, community involvement and organizational participation.

Alberta groups eligible for the group awards include agricultural districts, agricultural societies and other community or local organizations. Provincial groups or special interest groups aren't eligible for the award.

(Cont'd)

Nominations open for soil conservation awards (cont'd)

Groups will be judged on evidence of a long term plan, success in completing activities, impact for future activities, probability of continued activity and success in having their conservation activities adopted by others.

For more information about the awards, contact Garth Cochran in Calgary at 274-0563.

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Contact: Larry Welsh
948-8535

Garth Cochran
274-0563

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

Fertilizer economics
(fifth in a series)

Farmers planning to fertilize in the 1990 crop year can improve their decision making skills by studying an Alberta Agriculture factsheet.

The factsheet, Fertilizer Economics (Agdex 822-11), is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

"The publication uses a common sense approach to help interested producers decide how much nitrogen fertilizer to apply," says Craig Edwards, a department specialist in Olds.

Marginal analysis and equal marginal return analysis are demonstrated with a common sense method based on comparing added returns with the added costs of each application. The comparison enables producers to assess potential gains relative to potential losses and helps them to select a rate of application associated with their ability to take risks and their attitude about taking chances on the outcome.

"Producers can use the procedure described in the article to improve the probability of increasing the profitability of their production," says the economist. "Understanding the concepts will assist in developing production plans that make economic sense."

Farmers who want to participate in a comprehensive farm management course should register for Alberta Agriculture's "Gear Up Advantage" course as soon as possible. Call any district office for more information.

Planning assistance is also available from any Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or regional farm economist. The farm management branch has also prepared a farm planning package. It's available by writing to Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or by calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 11, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

WAY WITH WORDS WEEKENDS

Alberta 4-H members and leaders reached out with words this fall participating in four Way with Words Weekend (W4) workshops. The workshops are designed to enhance interpersonal communication skills. This year's theme of "reach out", provided the 166 4-Hers and 10 leaders with the opportunity to participate in several small group sessions dealing topics such as self esteem, non-verbal communication and listening skills. Delegates practiced the skills throughout the weekend and took part in several recreational activities including large group pictionary, mini-golf and a masquerade dance. Following the program, participants received a certificate of achievement and a binder containing materials covered at W4. They were encouraged to share this valuable information in their clubs, districts and regions through demonstrations or workshops. "Thanks to Alberta Agriculture, the sponsor of W4, delegates also enjoyed excellent food and facilities at the Alberta 4-H Centre in Battle Lake, Lethbridge Community College and Camp Tamarack in Grande Prairie," says Anita Styba, provincial 4-H personal development specialist. Way with Words Weekend is a provincial program for 4-H members between the ages of 14 and 21, 4-H leaders and alumni members. For more information contact Styba at 427-2541.

KENTUCKY RABBIT PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

The second annual Kentucky rabbit production conference and trade show is scheduled for January 27 at Kentucky State University in Frankfort. The principal speaker is James McNitt, a rabbit production specialist, with Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Suppliers of rabbit feed and equipment are part of the trade show. For more Information contact Duane Miksch with the University of Kentucky at (502)365-7541 or Marion Simon, Kentucky State University at (502)227-6974.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

AI AND BEEF HERD MANAGEMENT COURSE

Olds College extension services is offering a 10-day course on AI and beef herd management January 2 through 13. The practical course combines hands-on experience and information lectures. Designed for beef herd owner and employees, participants can gain specific skills related to artificial insemination and herd management. Course registration is $495. For more information contact Michael Gillis, livestock project manager, at 556-8313.

REDA CO-ORGANIZER OF MATFP'90 CONFERENCE

The Rural Education Development Association (REDA) is a co-organizer of the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge. Both Alberta Agriculture and REDA acknowledge the support of the agribusiness community for the conference that attracts over 400 farm participants. "The quality of the conference, both in terms of its speakers and format would suffer without the generous support given to us by the agribusiness community," says Paul Gervais, one of the conference co-ordinators. The annual conference provides an opportunity for farm couples to learn about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990's. Registration is limited to 450 participants. Conference brochures will be available from Alberta Agriculture district offices in mid-December. For more information about the conference contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles at 556-4240 or write MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or FAX 556-7545.

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# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JAN 29 1990

December 18, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

Outlook conference co-sponsor announced

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced a management agreement between AgriTrends Research Inc. of Calgary and Alberta Agriculture for the annual Alberta agricultural outlook Accent conference.

"For a number of years Government of Alberta policy has been to privatize public sector programs where feasible. My department has been running this conference for ten years and I'm very pleased that it has been developed to the stage where it can be staged on a commercial basis," says Mr. Isley.

AgriTrends will develop the conference program with assistance from Alberta Agriculture and key organizations representing major sectors of the agricultural industry. In the terms of the three-year agreement, Alberta Agriculture will maintain responsibility for distributing information from the conference to the media and the public.

The 1990 conference is February 27 and 28 at the Marlborough Inn in Calgary.

"Accent conferences have been highly rated by farmers and agribusiness people who have attended them. Agri-Trends is pleased to have the opportunity to continue developing the conference to meet the growing needs of farmers and media. Alberta Agriculture has laid a firm foundation for Accent, and by working closely with key industry organizations, their members and customers, the conference can become of even greater national importance," says Lloyd Quantz, president of AgriTrends.

"As managing sponsor, AgriTrends will be working closely with Alberta Agriculture and the industry to seek out new and innovative ideas for the continued improvement of the conference," he adds.

(Cont'd)

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

Outlook conference co-sponsor announced (cont'd)

"Since this will be the first conference of the 1990s, our speakers will feature hard hitting analyses of not only 1990, but the challenges of the next decade."

Alberta Agriculture has sponsored an annual spring outlook conference since 1980 to provide farmers with timely market outlook information for their production and marketing decisions.

For more information about Accent'90, contact Debbie Dalton, conference co-ordinator at AgriTrends Research Inc. in Calgary, at 295-2995 or David Walker, Alberta Agriculture market analysis branch in Edmonton, at 427-7132.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive Assistant
to the Minister of Agriculture
427-2137

Debbie Dalton
AgriTrends Research
295-2995

David Walker
Market analysis branch
427-7132

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Fitting yearlings horse conference topic

Health is the starting point in fitting a yearling says an American who specializes in preparing colts for sale.

Bill Whitman, of Ridgeleigh Farms in Purcell, Oklahoma, will be sharing his sale preparation program for yearling colts at the Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference January 12 through 14 in Red Deer.

"He'll be taking conference participants through the 90-day challenge of getting a colt ready for sale," says Les Burwash, of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

The Ridgeleigh Farms program is flexible and individual to maximize strengths and strengthen weaknesses of each horse. Health, however, is the starting point in fitting. "Before we can get a horse right on the outside, we must get him right on the inside," says Whitman.

Whitman will discuss how the Ridgeleigh Farm program works from the initial assessment of the yearling's physical characteristics to the nutritional, health care and exercise routine developed for each horse.

He says the fitter's goal is the same as the horseman going into a showring, to complement the animal and build the illusion it's a good horse for a prospective buyer.

Whitman also has a unique view of the fitting process. "Typically we have 90 days of hands-on fitting in which to produce a polished marketable animal. In short, we're beauticians, not magicians," he says.

The conference, one of North America's best for horse breeders and owners, features expert speakers on a variety of horse industry topics. There are also speakers who key on subjects related to specific breeds.

For more information about the conference, contact Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650 or Bob Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8905

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Contact: Les Burwash
297-6650

Bob Coleman
427-8905

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Beef symposium looks to next decade

Alberta beef producers can get a better understanding of some of the key issues they face in the 1990s at the Alberta Beef Symposium January 22 and 23 in Edmonton.

"Three major topics in the theme of critical issues facing beef producers in the 1990s will be addressed by quality speakers," says Ross Gould, of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch.

To open the conference, an overview of these critical issues will be presented by Charlie Gracey, Canadian Cattlemen's Association president. He will be followed by presentations on food safety and animal welfare.

During the second day the focus will shift to production and marketing. In the morning panels will discuss raising and marketing a quality calf. "Panelists sharing their insight include three farmers, an auctioneer and a veterinarian-farmer," says Gould.

"The wrap-up session is an introduction to value-based marketing and to people who have found a market niche and then found or developed a product to fit that niche," says Gould.

Gary Haley, general manager and co-founder of the Palliser Grain Company, will discuss another of his companies, Canada West Trading Corporation. This year the international marketer of value-added food products received an Alberta Export Achievement Award. The company has focused its marketing efforts on high quality Alberta beef sales to Japan and introduced new styles and cuts of meat to its Japanese customers. It has been rewarded with steady sales increases.

Conference registration information is available from the Alberta Cattle Commission at 275-4400. Alberta Agriculture district offices also have brochures and registration information.

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Contact: Ross Gould
427-5083

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For immediate release

# Banff Pork Seminar keys on management

Options in swine production is the theme of this year's Banff Pork Seminar January 23 through 26.

"Managing for better growth and improved reproductive performance are two of the four topic areas featured. Expert speakers will also look at options in operational management and welfare considerations in swine management," says Fred Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch and one of the seminar's organizers.

Growth performance is on the agenda during the seminar's first day with speakers addressing topic areas such as genetic selection and feeding. There will also be a wrap-up panel discussion in the afternoon with all of the day's six speakers.

Management options, from business principles to building options, are addressed the second morning, with welfare issues on the agenda in the afternoon. "We're pleased to have David Fraser with us. He is the secretary of Canada's Expert Committee on Farm Animal Welfare and Behavior. He'll talk about the application of behavioral studies in improving swine welfare and the existing codes of practice," Schuld says.

The final day features discussions about improving reproductive performance. Speakers and panel discussions will look specifically at selection and management.

Anyone interested in improving their pork-production knowledge and decision-making abilities will find the seminar useful, Schuld says. In addition to the formal program, participants also have ample time for informal discussions with seminar speakers, he adds.

Conference brochures are available from Alberta Agriculture swine specialists and district offices. Participants can register by telephone by calling Sheila at 492-3029.

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Contact: Fred Schuld
427-5320

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

# 1990 farm calendars available

It's more than a calendar, it's also a compact farm office organizer that can help farmers keep track of everything from financial records to market prices.

Alberta Agriculture's pouch-style "Save-All Management Planning" calendar has been a popular item with farm families for the last eight years and is now available from district offices, says Anita Lunden, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

"Farm families say they use the calendar a variety of ways--as a temporary file for bills and receipts, for noting weather conditions and for recording appointments, seeding dates, harvesting dates and even birthdays," she says.

The practical and durable calendar displays the current month with room for notations on each date, shows a list of dates and events to remember, notes days elapsed and provides a message from the calendar sponsor.

Although produced by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the Rural Education Development Association, the calendar is funded by several sponsors. Lunden says the department appreciates the co-operation and continuing support provided by those agencies and companies. This year's sponsors include: Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation, Alberta Agriculture conservation and development branch, AGT Mobile Communications, Alberta Power, Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, Cominco, Cyanamid, Farm Credit Corporation, Farm Financial Advisory Service, TransAlta Utilities and Treasury Branches of Alberta.

Limited quantities of the calendar are available to Alberta farm families on a first-come, first-served basis from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact: Anita Lunden
556-4240

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

# It's not too early for crop planning

(Sixth in a series)

Farm work changes seasonally, but farm business planning should continue year round says an Alberta Agriculture farm management specialist.

"While planning is a continuing activity, winter is a good time for farm decision makers to concentrate on planning," says Craig Edwards, of the farm business management branch in Olds. "Farmers who want to participate in a comprehensive farm management course through the winter should register for Alberta Agriculture's Gear Up Advantage course as soon as possible.

"The course is an enjoyable way to learn about production, human resources, finance and marketing planning this winter," he says. Gear-up Advantage includes planning for the whole farm. Information about the course is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Alberta Agriculture also has assistance for farmers not able to attend the course, but who are interested in business planning. "It's sometimes difficult to know where to start, but I want to stress that planning activities and developing written plans is time well spent," Edwards says.

He suggests farmers start with a recently published Alberta Agriculture crop choice worksheet. The worksheet guides the farmer through making a separate budget for each crop, showing variations for different levels of fertilizer application, seeding rates and weed chemicals. It provides a good start for estimating yields, prices and costs, he says.

The worksheets are designed for farmers to use their own estimates of expected revenues and input costs per crop. The sheets give no typical costs, but provide a format as a reminder of all the costs that might be included in the estimates.

(Cont'd)

It's not too early for crop planning (cont'd)

He advises making copies of the sheets for every crop the farmer considers growing and to use separate sheets to show high, medium and low input levels.

"The worksheets can be used to compare expected returns (yield times price) over expected variable costs for each crop. Comparing different levels of intensity of production after calculating expected yields and prices for each level will help in the decision of how much to attempt to grow, how to grow the crop and what to grow," Edwards says.

"The factsheet also provides explanations for using the worksheets to the farmer's best advantage as he plans," says the economist. "When completed for each crop, the worksheets provide the basic cost calculations required to make decisions. When the decisions are made, the cost calculations can be summarized for the following year including a projected cash flow."

The factsheet, "Planning With Crop Choice Worksheets", (Agdex 815-2), is available from any Alberta Agriculture district office or from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Assistance for planning is available from any Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or regional farm economist. The farm business management branch has prepared a farm planning package with learning material for interested farmers. It is available by writing to Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0 or by calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

# Alberta Agriculture Appointments

## NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN WETASKIWIN

Bruce Friedel has moved from Alberta Agriculture's Sedgewick district office to become the new Wetaskiwin district agriculturist. Friedel was in Sedgewick for the last four and a half years. One of his major contributions while there was his involvement in establishing the Battle River Applied Research Association. As district agriculturist he will consult with area farmers and agribusinesses, organize seminars, conduct on-farm applied research and assist community and farm groups with agricultural activities. Friedel is a 1984 University of Alberta graduate in the BSc in agriculture program. He was raised on a beef and grain farm in the Fairview area. Friedel can be contacted in Wetaskiwin at 340-1240.

## MANNING HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Freeman Iwasiuk is the new Manning district agriculturist. He takes over the position from Elaine Ryl who recently transferred to the Drayton Valley district office. For the last two years Iwasiuk worked for two producer groups as manager of the Alberta Forage Council and manager of the Lakeland Forage Association's northern range enhancement project. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1987 with a BSc in agriculture. Originally from the Lac La Biche area, Iwasiuk has a strong farming background. He says he is delighted with his new appointment and is looking forward to working with and becoming part of the Manning district. He can be reached at 836-3351.

FREEMAN IWASIUK

(Cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture appointments (cont'd)

NEW REGIONAL 4-H SPECIALIST IN REGION 5

Rhonda Clarke is the new north west regional 4-H specialist. Based in Barrhead, Clarke will supervise and administer 4-H programs in Alberta's north west region. "I will be working with 4-H leaders and members to assist them with project, communication and leadership skills as well as with planning a variety of events and special programs," she says. Clarke has worked with Alberta Agriculture in other capacities, first as a regional 4-H summer assistant in the Peace in 1983 and 1986 and also as a summer assistant district agriculturist in Falher in 1987 and 1988. After graduating from the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program in 1988, she spent six months through 1988-89 as assistant district agriculturist in Valleyview. Originally from the Spirit River area, she grew up on a grain and cattle farm. She can be reached in Barrhead at 674-8248.

RHONDA CLARKE



AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 18, 1989
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

NEW LEADERSHIP FACTSHEET SERIES

Making the best use of the time and energy of volunteers is something every organization wants to do. Many organizations are looking for information or training to enhance their member's leadership abilities. Rural organizations across the province says their efficiency depends on the effectiveness of the members. Some of the leadership skills they want to improve include being able to run meetings effectively, understand the role and responsibilities of executive positions and write effective newsletters. Using the theme of perspectives in leadership, Alberta Agriculture has developed ten factsheets. The factsheets offer practical how-to information for members of rural organizations. The ten factsheets (with Homedex numbers) are: How to be an Effective Leader (1912); Roles and Responsibilities of Organization Directors (1921-30-1); On Being a Delegate (1921-30-2); Effective Committees (1921-60); Effective Meetings (1922); Parliamentary Procedure for Meetings (1922-31); Promoting Your Organization's Activities (1926-50); Newsletters - Design and Production (1931-50); A Guide to Financial Management for Non-Profit Organizations (1932-10); and, Program Planning for Organizations (1933-30). A full set or single copies are now available at any Alberta Agriculture district office or the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

HOOF CARE WORKSHOPS IN CAMROSE, BARRHEAD AND LEDUC

Producers "whoof" care about their cattle's hooves can attend one of three workshops offered by Alberta Agriculture. The day-long hoof care workshops are in Camrose on January 10, in Barrhead on January 11 and in Leduc on January 12. Featured speaker is Paul Greenhough from the University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

HOOF CARE WORKSHOPS IN CAMROSE, BARRHEAD AND LEDUC

He is a noted researcher in foot disease, hoof care and foot conformation. He will speak on high energy diets and feet and on foot conformation. He will also give some practical demonstrations. For more information contact one of the three district offices involved, Camrose (679-1210), Barrhead (674-8213) or Leduc (986-2251).

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR AGRI-FOOD PROJECTS

Organizations with ideas for economic development projects in agriculture and food industries can apply for funding from a new Agriculture Canada initiative. The Canadian Agri-Food Development Initiative (CAFDI) will provide financial assistance for market, production and human resource development projects. One of the program's goals is to improve marketing of Canadian agricultural and food products. Applications will be accepted from both commercial and non-profit organization with special consideration given to those that represent a broad sector of the industry. Successful applicants may receive up to 50 per cent of eligible projects costs to a maximum of $250,000 per year or $750,000 over the project's duration. More information and applications can be obtained from Agriculture Canada, Suite 810, 9700 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, T5J 4G5 or by calling Mike Southwood at 495-4141.

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CANADIANA

JAN 29 1990

## Editor's Note

Because of early deadlines, you are receiving both the December 25, 1989 and January 1, 1990 issues of Agri-News in this mailing.

Although both issues are dated, there is no embargo in effect, so feel free to use as needed.

Regular publishing deadlines will resume with the January 8, 1990 issue.

# AGRI-NEWS

December 25, 1989

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

December 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Assessing your life insurance needs

Insurance is part of a solid financial foundation that lessens some of the risks inherent in the occupation of farming says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Alberta Agriculture has just published a series of factsheets about life insurance for farm families to help them make decisions about adequate coverage and what type of insurance they should have.

"Several district home economists asked farm families about what type of insurance they had, if they understood the difference between types, what the face value of their insurance was and whether they knew the basics of disability insurance," says Jean Wilson, provincial family resource management specialist.

"We hope the factsheets will help bridge any knowledge gaps that are out there," she adds.

The factsheets discuss types of insurance, calculating needs and how to read a policy. "When we've discussed insurance value at workshops, we've found some people don't have adequate coverage. They may have policies worth $20,000, but that isn't a lot for the economics of today," says Wilson.

"Life Insurance...Calculating your Needs" (Homedex 1824-30-1-2) has a worksheet for the farm couple to work out their insurance needs. Term, whole life (permanent), combination policies and optional clauses are discussed in the "Types of Policies" factsheet (Homedex 1824-30-1-1). "How to Read a Policy" is the third factsheet in the series (Homedex 1824-30-1-3).

"The factsheets answer very basic questions. Through them you should be able to decide what you need and what you can afford. They also explain some of the details and common terms used in life insurance policies. They'll also help you ask your life insurance agent the right questions," says Wilson.

(Cont'd)

Assessing your life insurance needs (cont'd)

"After reading the factsheets, you should also be able to look at your current policy and know more about what you have and whether you should make any changes," she says.

Wilson adds farm families should check with their local Alberta Agriculture district office for information about life insurance seminars and workshops. The factsheets are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

More information about life insurance is also available from: The Information Centre, Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association Inc., Suite 2500, 20 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3S2 or call (toll-free) 1-800-268-8099.

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Contact: Jean Wilson
427-2412

December 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Insuring your ability to earn income

Farmers purchase various types of insurance ranging from crop insurance to life insurance, but often forget about insuring their ability to earn an income says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Farmers do need to ask themselves if they are disabled, even for a short time, how will the bills be paid," says Jean Wilson, provincial family resource management specialist. "If you really think about it, especially if you are younger, you are more likely to be disabled whether through a sickness or accident, than die."

However, she adds finding a disability insurance for farmers can be difficult. "Most policies are based on replacing a monthly income. Farmers, who sometimes have negative monthly incomes, need a different formula based on net worth," she says.

Disability insurance does have the drawback of being expensive, especially since a farmer's work is considered high risk. A worksheet in a recent Alberta Agriculture publication helps the farmer, or farm couple, make decisions about disability insurance.

"When looking at a policy you also need to know how a disability is defined. Does it include temporary disabilities, benefits while in hospital, future earnings protection and an option for death or dismemberment?" says Wilson.

"Farm Insurance...Disability" (Homedex 1824-30-3-1) is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Jean Wilson
427-2412

December 25, 1989
For immediate release

# What's new about milking cows

An up-date on dairy management systems is featured in the third Alberta dairy extension series during late January.

Robert Appleman, from the University of Minnesota, will be in five communities across the province to discuss some of the new developments in the old science of milking cows.

Appleman spent three months in Europe last year exploring bioengineering developments related to dairying. He visited public and private research institutions in Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands exchanging ideas with European scientists.

"One of the major areas of interest in European research is robotic milking. Solving the technical problems and making these systems practical is the biggest challenge facing researchers. Dr. Appleman will discuss what he saw and how that research is progressing," says Brian Rhiness, Alberta Agriculture's provincial dairy specialist.

Through Appleman's slides, series participants will get a visual idea of some of the innovative European feeding and management systems. Each participant will also receive a set of notes on the topics Appleman covers.

The Alberta Dairy Extension Series 3 will begin January 22 in Lethbridge at Sven Erikson's. It continues in Olds at Olds College on January 23, the next night is in Lacombe's Kozy Korner and then moves to Leduc's Elk's Hall on January 25. It concludes the next evening in Rycroft at Courtesy Corner.

Pre-registration is $10 per person or $15 at the door. For more information call Rhiness in Wetaskiwin at 352-1223 or Alberta Agriculture district offices in Lethbridge (381-5237), Olds (556-4220), Lacombe (782-3301), Leduc (986-2251) or Grande Prairie (538-5285).

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Contact: Brian Rhiness
352-1223

December 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Speaker discusses horse vices

An animal behavior scientist will give horse owners tips on how to control and prevent their horses' bad habits at the Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners conference.

Don McKeown, a professor at University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College, will address two topic areas at the conference January 12 through 14 in Red Deer.

"In his first presentation, Don will discuss common vices horses develop, such as chewing wood and cribbing. He'll describe how these vices start and what can be done to prevent and control them," says Les Burwash, of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

DON MCKEOWN

McKeown, who teaches and researches behavior of horses, cats and dogs, will also tell conference participants about how horses learn. "This subject and Don's presentation will be extremely interesting for anyone interested in training horses or just understanding the horse," says Burwash.

In the presentation, McKeown will emphasize how a horse's brain functions, the learning process and the importance of repetition in training horses. He'll also talk about using behavioral characteristics so owners can train horses to do what they want them to do.

The conference, one of North America's best for horse breeders and owners, features speakers on a variety of horse industry topics. For more information, contact Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650 or Bob Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8905.

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Contact: Les Burwash
297-6650

Bob Coleman
427-8905

December 25, 1989
For immediate release

# Camrose area 4-H clubs raise money for 4-H Centre

A co-operative project of Camrose district 4-H clubs netted almost $4,000 for the 4-H Foundation of Alberta's provincial 4-H centre.

The Edberg 4-H Beef Club raised the calf that was purchased by Camrose Co-op for $3,816 at the annual district show and sale.

The seven district clubs also donated their $40 profit from a pancake breakfast held one morning during the show and sale.

Bashaw, Bawlf, Bittern Lake Multi Mixers, Camrose, Edberg, New Norway and Rosalind 4-H clubs were the district clubs involved at the 4-H Beef Show and Sale hosted by the Camrose Regional Exhibition.

"We're very pleased by the enthusiastic and continued support of districts who raise a Foundation calf and donate the proceeds to the 4-H Foundation. The businesses who support the sale and the Camrose Regional Exhibition are also very important to the success of this 4-H project. These contributions are an investment in the future of 4-H programs," says Herman Grosfield, chairman of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

The Alberta 4-H Centre, owned and operated by the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, is located on the shores of Battle Lake, 35 miles west of Wetaskiwin. It is available for public rental year-round.

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Contact: Iris Plamondon
427-2541

December 25, 1989
For immediate release

Getting more bang from your bucks
(Seventh, and final, in a series)

Planning for crop production in 1990 will be more important than ever, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Craig Edwards, a farm management economist, says producers will have more opportunity to find where investing cash operating capital will give them the best returns. It's to their advantage to look for and find places where a dollar spent will return more than a dollar within the year, he says.

"Budgeting for crop production is very important," says Edwards, a specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "Cash invested or spent to grow crops in 1990 must return at least one dollar within the following year, so cash operating capital will be available to seed the crops in 1991.

"If it doesn't work out that way, farm operators will have less cash for operating expenses in 1991, than they had for operating expenses in 1990, unless they are able to borrow or get money elsewhere."

The economist describes the following example: "If you're farming 1,000 cultivated acres and you expect cash expenses of $50 per acre in 1990 you'll want to get back more than $50,000 before you plant your 1991 crop.

"About $20,000 will probably be spent on machinery operating and maintenance costs and other costs that you can't change. The other $30,000 can be spent for crop inputs such as seed, fertilizer and other chemicals - that's where you're able to make a choice of resources to get the best return."

To find where the best returns can be expected in an operation, Edwards suggests producers learn the concept of equal marginal returns and how to apply the principle to their own expected expenses and revenues.

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Getting more bang from your buck (cont'd)

Farmers wanting to participate in a comprehensive farm management course including planning for the whole farm, should register for Alberta Agriculture's Gear Up Advantage course as soon as possible. Call any Alberta Agriculture district office for information and enjoy learning about production, human resources, marketing and financial planning this winter, he says.

Farmers not able to attend a course, can get assistance from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists and regional economists. The farm business management branch has some unpublished material available at Olds on making the best use of operating capital and a farm planning package. For more information write Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or phone 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 25, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

CAMROSE BULL CONGRESS

The fourth annual Camrose Bull Congress runs January 26 and 27 at the Camrose Exhibition Centre. The congress is designed for purebred breeders and commercial operators. Private breeders can display and promote their herd and breeding program. Semen, bulls and heifers are sold by private treaty. Breed association's display animals and offer promotional material. The trade show also features agribusinesses. There is also an educational component. Scheduled sessions include beef management from conception to weaning, marketing strategies for medium sized herds, bull conformation, and hands-on bull judging. Friday also features the all breed steak challenge and dinner speaker Dr. C.W. (Red) Williams on how to get power back to rural groups. The Congress is sponsored by the Camrose Regional Exhibition and Alberta Agriculture. For more information contact the Camrose Regional Exhibition at 672-3640.

SEED CLEANING PLANT CONVENTION

Delegates will gather at the 37th annual Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants January 18 through 20 at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton. Along with association business, the convention will feature an address by Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley. Delegates will also take part in a panel discussion on the future of agricultural chemicals. The manager's association will also hold a business meeting. For more information, call Gus Lindstrom in Bashaw at 372-3580.

"LEAD-OFF 1990" ACFA CONVENTION THEME

Federal agriculture minister Don Mazankowski headlines the speakers at the 1990 Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association convention January 19 and 20 in Calgary. Mazankowski will discuss leadership and agricultural

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"LEAD-OFF 1990" ACFA CONVENTION THEME (cont'd)

policy development. The conference will wrap-up with a panel discussion on the key factors that affected the national feeding industry in the '80s and looks at the main concerns of the '90s. Other topics on the agenda include a new feedlot frontier, Canada's Meat Import Act, packer rationalization, beef palatability, marketing, responsible drug usage and the ideal feedlot supplier. Saturday evening's banquet speaker is James "Doc" Blakely, of Wharton, Texas. The educator and syndicated columnist will tell delegates about the gift of laughter. The convention is at the Marlborough Inn. For more information call the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association in Calgary at 250-2509.

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